

Ohio Redistricting Commission Testimony  
September 12, 2021  
Dr. Tommie R. Radd  
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Gahanna, Ohio 43230

My name is Dr. Tommie R. Radd. I vote in Ohio Senate District 3, House District 19 and Congressional District 3. I testified on August 27th in Mansfield and on September 9th in Columbus and submitted testimony. The reason I'm here is to give public record feedback on the maps this commission approved in a partisan 5-2 vote and voice my extreme disappointment in the commissions apparent inability to work in a bipartisan manner, follow the letter and spirit of the law, and follow the rules required in the 2015 constitutional amendment voted by over 70% of the citizens of Ohio. Based on nonpartisan Fair Districts analysis, your map of September 9th is unacceptable, especially in the areas of representative fairness, minority representation and compactness explained as follows.

### **Proportionality (Representative Fairness)**

Your maps scores low in Proportionality (Representational Fairness) using Dave's Redistricting App. **Ohio's average map-wide Democratic two-party vote share is 46.38%, the Republican 53.62%** based on the statewide vote over the past decade.

**There are 99 Ohio House seats.** The number of Democratic House seats closest to proportional is 46 and the number of Republican House seats closest to proportional is 53 (**46 Democratic leaning districts; 53 Republican leaning districts**). The likely outcome from Your Map is **32 Democratic leaning districts and 67 Republican leaning districts (32.32% Dem.; 67.67% Rep).**

**There are 33 Ohio Senate seats.** The number of Democratic Senate seats closest to proportional is 15 and the number of Republican Senate seats closest to proportional is 18 (**15 Democratic leaning districts; 18 Republican leaning districts**). The likely outcome from Your Map is **10 Democratic seats and 23 Republican seats (30.30% Dem.; 69.69% Rep.)**

### **Minority Representation**

Your maps appear to inappropriately "pack" minorities into Ohio House districts. Members promoting Your map have stated for the record that they failed to examine the racial composition of their map per your direction. This flagrant omission is disrespectful of the Ohio Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act, minority communities, and all Ohio voters.

### **Compactness**

Compactness measures how "sprawling" or "oddly shaped" a district is. At the individual House district level, certain anomalies are evident regarding a lack of compactness.

Your map discounts the gerrymandering issues impacting Gahanna presented in public testimony on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Mansfield. Several Gahanna citizens spoke to this problem, plus submitted a map for our community. Our input and requests were ignored. These are examples:

- Racial gerrymandering to the Airport continues to be an issue
- Seltzer Road is spilt down the middle
- Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools are split between multiple districts

In addition, the minority party proposed map submitted on August 31<sup>st</sup> addresses gerrymandering concerns per our testimony by:

- Having No Racial gerrymandering to the airport
- Representing all of Gahanna in one district
- Drawing the lines along natural boundaries such as the expressway

The majority map submitted on September 9<sup>th</sup> ignored Gahanna gerrymandering, discounted the minority map corrections, and continues the gerrymandering of Gahanna. The gerrymandering of Gahanna, my community Needs To Stop!

Each commission member is constitutionally responsible for the Ohio Redistricting process, maps and end results. Everyone on this Commission is accountable for the way you conduct yourselves and work transparently with the process. That hasn't happened. You have intentionally proposed a map to continue giving the majority party a super majority. Your maps insult our intelligence.

Your Charge was to Work Together to Produce FAIR, COMPETITIVE MAPS. Citizens with NONE of YOUR RESOURCES such as Dr. Geoff Rice who testified on September 9th produced a fair option. Actions speak louder than words. It is shameful and dishonest what you are doing. We will not stand by quietly.

Gerrymandering is cheating. To gerrymander to create and maintain a super majority in the Ohio House and Senate is WRONG. That is the reason the citizens of Ohio stepped up to fix this problem and hold you accountable. Ohioans voted for You to fix this unfairness and stand for ALL people now. This Redistricting Commission has a responsibility to draw fair maps per the Letter and the Spirit of our Ohio Constitutional Amendments as demanded by the voters.

You have until September 15th to determine your legacy. How will your children, grandchildren and the historians rate you? Will you be a cheater? Will you be a statesman? Your final map and vote will tell ALL the answer.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today,

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