

September 11, 2021

To: Ohio Redistricting Commission,
testimony@redistricting.ohio.gov

From: Brian Kennedy Schmitz,
info@BrianSchmitz.info

What is gerrymandering? Or, as i like to call it, systemic cheating. It's a way of misrepresenting communities and citizens by manipulating unfair results. It's just plain cheating. And it's now aimed at removing veto. Its goal is monopoly.

Montgomery county is divided in the commission's proposed maps by gross packing and cracking for seat 39 where I live. CRACKING is defined as diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many districts and PACKING is concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts.

This a non-partisan testimony because I want communities' interests represented fairly and logically and not like House seat 39 proposes to be done to my vote for my next representative. I want ONLY citizen-drawn maps selected by the commission, which adhere to the Ohio constitution to reach solid political subdivisions, compactness, competitiveness, and above all minority representation. Because, I think we all know monopolization is not just unfair and un-American but very dangerous.

I pondered various ways to accomplish fair map drawings and drew multiple myself. Taking one method to a county lottery to assign district numbers randomly. But, I; as do others in Ohio, believe proximity to close neighbors is the best guideline for the most wholesome 99 House seats and the 33 Senate seats. I know lines have to fall somewhere.

Please choose the maps won in Fair Districts Ohio drawing competition by Pranav Padmanabhan to become the actual commission-selections for both House and Senate instead of those two proposed already by the commission. Specifically they apply to me and my neighbors being fairly valued and thus as likely to be represented. House seat 15, 14 and 18 lines of Mr. Padmanabhan's maps are fair for Dayton proper votes and surrounding greater Dayton voter representation which include me.

In the two commission-proposed maps, Montgomery county, where I live, is heavily gerrymandered by cracking it... diminishing metropolitan voter value of me and others near me by absorbing us into huge rural areas. I think the Dayton metropolitan seat lines should limit absorption into distant surrounding areas to have a fair, community focused mapping and not a distant, rural gerrymandering that diminishes many citizens' value. Fair value mapping by equal political interest would make it more likely my representative focus on my needs as they align with my neighbors' needs more than some far off combined counties' citizens out weighing the will of my vote, my voice on issues and that of many voters in my community. We should mathematically value equal to another voter over there or over here.

Mr. Padmanabhan's maps were closely analyzed on metrics for fairness and best represent ALL the citizens of Ohio equally for election fairness and wholesome community representation, not a cheating toe under the scale of justice just for some.

Sincerely,
Brian Kennedy Schmitz
info@BrianSchmitz.info
4400 Daleview Ave TRLR 41, Dayton, OH 45405