

Testimony Sunday September 12, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Kim Senft-Paras. I vote in OH's 41st House District, OH's 6th Senate District and the 10th US Congressional District in Centerville.

To paraphrase pop singer, Britney Spears, "Oops, you did it again." Your mapmakers proposed maps that created "safe" districts which will result in predictable election outcomes resulting in unresponsive elected officials, disengaged voters and dysfunctional government which serves only those who made the maps.

Your officially proposed maps score low in representational fairness also called proportionality when analyzed using Dave's Redistricting App.

Ohio's average map-wide Democratic two-party vote share is 46.38% and the Republican's share is 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. That means there are 46 Democratic leaning districts and 53 Republican leaning districts. The likely outcome from the officially proposed map is 32 Democratic leaning districts and 67 Republican leaning districts.

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. This translates to 15 Democratic leaning districts and 18 Republican leaning districts. The likely outcome from the officially proposed map is 10 Democratic seats and 23 Republican seats.

Over the last six months I have worked with members of the local League of Women Voters to engage community members around our county to draw maps for their communities outlining

their own stories and drawing lines around the area that they consider their community where they share values, customs, and concerns. Specifically, Trotwood residents are separated from Dayton and included with Preble County, which they said they did not want. Did your mapmakers study our community maps? As minority community that is part of an urban setting, their values and concerns are more aligned with Dayton residents than the rural Preble County community. These voters deserve the right to choose their representative and senator - these maps deny them that choice.

In 2015 and 2018, respectively, state legislative and Congressional redistricting reforms passed with over 70% of Ohio voters voting in the affirmative for these ballot issues. Both reforms passed in all 88 of Ohio's counties. Because redistricting happens only every 10 years, it is imperative that the Commission use this opportunity to remedy the gerrymandered districts made in 2011. Overall, you have not accomplished this task with the maps you have put forth for consideration. The constitutional language says you "shall attempt" proportionality. In this case you need to work more consciously for this result because what has been proposed does not come close to hitting the mark.

Fair maps are possible as shown by the maps submitted to the OH Citizens Redistricting Commission and Fair Districts. This is good news. We are fortunate to have the resources through both technology and actual people who have the imagination, intelligence, and tenacity to work together with you to create fair districts and make elections serve all Ohioans. We can be leaders and you can put Ohio on the map by showing the rest of the country how it is done with integrity, strength, and transparency – let's do this right! Thank you.

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