

Statement on new district maps proposed by

the Ohio Redistricting Commission

September 12, 2021

I'm Beth Sullebarger, a resident of Glendale in Hamilton County. As an Ohio voter interested in fair districts, I thank the commission for holding a hearing on a day and time I can attend.

I object to the new district maps released by the commission on September 9 on the basis that they do not meet the intent of the Constitutional Amendments passed overwhelmingly by voters in 2015 to reform the redistricting process. What voters expected was that districts would be more competitive than before and result in better government.

As proposed, the new districts are even less competitive than the old ones. Ohio voters are about 54% Republican and 46% Democrat, but the new house districts are drawn in such a way to guarantee 68% Republican-leaning districts and 32% Democratic-leaning districts. The new senate districts are similar, roughly 70% Republican-leaning and 30% Democrat.

This is not what Ohio voters asked for. Because when either party—Republican or Democrat—dominates, it makes them less accountable to voters. Gerrymandering creates conditions for corruption. We have just seen what this looks like with the disgraceful HB 6 scandal. The current proposed maps will give us more of the same.

If you're against corruption, stand up and do the right thing. I urge you to respect the intent as well as the letter of the law, strive for bi-partisan consensus, adopt fairer maps, and free Ohio from corruption.