

Opponent Testimony of  
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Not in support of the Gerrymandered Republican drawn State House Map.

Thank you for showing up today to hear the testimony of your constituents.

I am from Lorain County. In 10 of the last 11 or more presidential elections, voters in our county have voted for the democratic candidate. We are a democratic county. In Lorain County we have 7 county wide elected officials who are Democrats and we have 4 county wide elected officials who are Republicans – one of which is the coroner. Until the last election all county wide electeds were Democrats. I'm sure you have heard about the shenanigans that have been going on between the two newly elected Republican commissioners. Hiring lovers, firing lovers, hiring campaign managers, firing campaign managers, hiring campaign donors, firing campaign donors, hiring people who are unqualified, firing some of those people. One republican commissioner telling the other to resign. The list of their scandals goes on as a soap opera. Needless to say, not a whole lot is getting done in Lorain County because of the two republicans and their foolishness. They are of the same ilk as the republicans in Columbus who cheat us out of tens of millions of dollars through First Energy dark money back room dealing and school vouchers to ECOT. But With all of their mischievousness and pain they have caused our county, I don't figure that they will be re-elected. I digress to point out that when Republicans are in charge they cheat, and cost us time and money - just as you are doing with the drawing of these maps.

The way the Republicans have drawn Lorain County is a perfect example of gerrymandering. Putting Lorain City and Elyria in the same district is a textbook example of packing a district. You have packed the democratic and minority votes. The spirit and intent of the voters was to end gerrymandering. We want competitive districts. We want districts that reflect our community. We want districts that reflect our voting patterns. We should have at least two competitive districts if not three in Lorain County. You have drawn zero competitive districts in Lorain.

For House District 53, you have drawn Vermilion in the same district as Willard. Tell me what connection the people in Vermilion on Lake Erie have to do to farmers in Willard. Vermilion's main revenue is from tourism. Vermilion's businesses are in the boating industry with a focus on boat repair, boat sales, marinas, fishing charters, docks and boat storage. Willard is a small rural farming community. What do the people in Oberlin who work for one of the most prestigious colleges in the country, that is known for the Allen Art Museum and music conservatory, have in common with the farmers in Huron which by the way is Ohio's number one county in producing vegetables? We are not talking apples and oranges here we are talking

tractors and soy beans vs. Mozart and museum tours. Both are good, but they don't go together. They shouldn't be represented as one community because they are not one community. Oberlin should be represented by the same person who represents Lorain County Community College in Elyria. Oberlin is 8 miles from Elyria, Oberlin is 46 miles from Willard.

I would add that our state is a purple state – not a red state. The only reason people think we are a republican state is because our state legislature is so gerrymandered. We should have at least 44 Democratic house seats and at least 15 Democratic Senate seats. Aren't you tired of the extremists in your party dictating how you can vote? Don't you want to win fair and square? Don't you feel dirty when you cheat? What do we have to do to make you want to be fair, to make you want what the people in our state voted for? We voted for a fair process. We voted for a fair map. That is what we deserve.