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It is my understanding that the Ohio Redistricting Commission and/or the Ohio Legislature, among others, are charged with the responsibility of effecting the creation of voting districts to accurately reflect Ohio's population as indicated in the recent census. In doing so, those engaged in this process are enjoined to give appropriate consideration to factors such as district contiguity, compactness, and minority representation.

All of this is to further the goal that no plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party, a practice often referred to as gerrymandering. Another, more descriptive term for it is "cheating."

Designing district boundaries in ways to enhance or ensure election outcomes is reprehensible regardless of which party engages in the practice. But it is clear that in recent years the blame for this lies squarely with Republicans who abuse their position to twist a 55/45 general majority in statewide elections into 70/30 proportions in Ohio legislative seats.

It is also my understanding that despite the fact that Ohio citizens have twice voted for fairer districts and transparency, Republicans on the Redistricting Commission have proposed district maps that are essentially just as gerrymandered as before, if not more so. It is hard to conclude anything other than that Republicans are deliberately ignoring the express views of Ohio citizens by putting forth maps which they know do not meet the goal of fair redistricting.

I earnestly wish that I could be proved wrong, but it is my impression that what is going on here is that Republicans are attempting to abuse the process by securing for four years what they know they could not succeed in securing for ten years, thereby maintaining their ill-gotten hegemony at least through the 2022 election cycle. Again, the appropriate term for this is "cheating." It is repugnant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.