

Andrew Montlack
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Tel: (216)938-5453

Ohio Redistricting Commission
testimony@redistricting.ohio.gov

September 12, 2021

To Ohio Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to present testimony concerning your submitted proposed map of Ohio Senate and House districts.

This commission's proposed map ignores Ohio voters' overwhelming passage of anti-gerrymandering constitutional amendments (for Senate districts in 2015 and for House districts 2018)¹. To quote from Sunday morning's *Akron Beacon Journal* Editorial Board opinion, "This Is Gerrymandering."²

This commission's officially proposed map lacks representative proportionality and minority representation.

With respect to proportionality, Fair Districts Ohio recently conducted an analysis of the map using the Dave's Redistricting App. It was created by Dave Bradlee, a software engineer with numerous credentials (among them, a University of Washington PhD in computer science and 17 years at Microsoft as a Senior Software Developer, according to his LinkedIn profile³); Mr. Bradlee's Facebook posts include articles from the national paper of record, *The New York Times*⁴; he is a serious, civic-minded person, and his redistricting analysis should be regarded as the product of such. The analysis showed that the proposed map would likely result in 32 Democratic-leaning House districts and 67 Republican-leaning House districts, wildly off from the proportionally representative ratio of 46 Democratic seats to 53 Republican seats; it showed the same flagrant disproportionality on the Senate side, with a likely 10 Democratic seats to 23 Republican seats, versus the proportionally representative ratio of 15 Democratic districts to 18 Republican districts.⁵

With respect to minority representation, I refer to *Columbus Dispatch*'s September 9th piece, "'An Insult to Democracy': Ohio Republicans' redistricting plan panned soon after release."⁶ That article states "Republican mapmakers didn't consider racial or demographic data when putting their maps together, said Ray DiRossi, the Senate Republicans' finance director. He said GOP mapmakers were directed by legislative leaders not to consider racial or demographic data. 'It's illegal to use race in drawing districts,' [Senate President] Matt Huffman [R-Lima] said later. 'That's a violation of federal law.'" Here's one response to Mr. Huffman's assertion: "'You can actually look at race as a criteria. It just cannot be the only criteria,' said Deidra Reese with the Ohio Unity Coalition."

Public comments by the leadership, such as the one above by Mr. Huffman, obfuscate what's really baked into this commission's proposed redistricting map, which is a disrespect for the will of Ohio

voters. The time for such tactics is past, the voters have said it, and now the state constitution reflects it. Kindly honor Article XI of our state constitution, return to the drawing board, and this time do the job we Ohioans have directed you to do.

Respectfully,

Andrew Montlack
Constituent

P.S. Sources below

¹<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/laws/ohio-constitution/article?id=11>)

²<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/opinion/editorials/2021/09/12/ohio-redistricting-commission-fails-fair-maps-gerrymandering-dewine-larose-huffman-republicans/8269278002/?fbclid=IwAR2Cjfnwb6fiQy9HYbrW-6c66fZlwUL4F1bAllrFBRPqTn8avXBDT05DjbM>

³<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dave-bradlee-3b7357a>

⁴<https://www.facebook.com/dave.bradlee>

⁵https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSZc7Xhu0HtNW4dgr85MGpcV3EVLmCNkOuwn80_0AhPhLrWVbVBKf9ByQ5aHx1OQ/pub?link_id=1&can_id=3432bd92a3797aa1fdc61aefb261edea&source=email-analysis-of-proposed-maps-and-prepping-for-hearings&email_referrer=email_1287255&email_subject=analysis-of-proposed-maps-and-prepping-for-hearings

⁶<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/politics/2021/09/09/facing-redistricting-deadline-ohio-republicans-release-statehouse-map/5782315001/>