

My name is Rachel Bowman, I'm here representing For Our Future Ohio, a member of the Equal Districts Coalition.

I live in Columbus. I moved to Ohio four years ago, and two years ago decided to make Columbus my home and bought a house here. I noticed right away, our legislature is often taking actions far removed from the will of the majority of Ohioans. That's because our districts are made up not to represent the voters, but to help the Republican party have as much political control as possible.

I, along with a majority of Ohioans in all 88 counties, voted for the redistricting reforms in 2018. As the year started, I was cautiously optimistic that this committee would have the best interests of Ohioans in mind while undertaking this important task. Unfortunately, the maps under consideration do not demonstrate that at all. If anything, it's worse than what we have now.

Representational fairness is a Constitutional requirement of this process, but these maps show no representational fairness. Over the last ten years, Ohioans have voted Republican 55% of the time - but these maps give the Republicans 66% of the House and Senate seats. That does not serve the people of Ohio.

I'm sure map making isn't an easy task - but it is both possible and required to be done fairly. The Ohio Citizens Redistricting Committee, the Democrats on this committee, and even citizens participating in a map making contest were able to keep communities of interest together while maintaining representational fairness. I ask that you reject the map under consideration, and consider one of all of those fair maps instead.

Thank you for your time today.