

My name is Susan Cavanaugh. I live in ~~House District 18 and Senate District 15~~. Thank you co-chairs Cupp and Sykes and members of the commission.

Today I want to talk about the Republican map introduced last Thursday, especially in relation to Section 6 and 6-B of the citizen's constitutional amendment.

There seems to be confusion on the Commission about section 6-B, so I'd like to break it down. It tells us that the proportion of districts that favor one party or the other

**quote** "shall correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio." **End quote**

It tells us clearly how to determine those preferences. It tells you to use

**quote** "statewide state and federal partisan election results." **End quote**

And it tells us what time period to use

**quote** "during the last ten years." **End quote**

I think the citizens' wishes are clear.

Let's move to the introduction of section 6 that addresses additional standards:

**Quote:** The Ohio redistricting commission shall attempt to draw a general assembly district plan that meets all of the following standards:  
**End quote**

Let's break it down. Who should do this? You, the Commission. Then we again have that pesky word "shall," which I continue to understand as a directive in the Biblical sense. Which of the standards should be met? It says all of the following.

I read over the weekend that a member of the Commission was focusing on the word "attempt" and thought that meant that 6-B was aspirational. Now aspirational has to do with a strong desire. We the citizens do have a strong desire. We are not naïve. We understand that 6-B is not in your political interests. We aren't asking you to develop a strong to desire to do this. It says you shall attempt. Attempt means to try.

Growing up in rural Ohio, one of my mother's rules was, "you have to try." Something important required 100% effort. "Doing something poorly due to a lack of care or effort" was not tolerated. I don't expect less than 100% effort from you.

The Republican who introduced the majority's plan last week told us they didn't even look at party preferences. That is certainly not trying to meet the standard of 6-B. That's giving "0" effort. That would not have been acceptable to my mother, it isn't acceptable to me, and it isn't acceptable to the voters of Ohio.

Much has been said about the difficulty of the task and the short time frame. Yes, it's hard and there's not a lot of time. But you aren't

(3)

required to do this alone. You know this and your website accepts plans and maps from citizens and organizations.

Really smart Ohioans have responded and provided you plans that followed the rules and met all of the standards of the amendment. Geoff Wise's presentation to the Commission last week was very impressive. You could adopt his plan or the OCRC plan, or at least have started with one of those. Instead, you chose to move ahead with a plan that ignores 6-B and is more partisan than the current one.

My only hope is that there are people already working on the next constitutional amendment

that will remove the responsibility for redistricting from the governor, legislature, elected officials, politicians, lobbyists, and political parties.

It's so disappointing that this will likely be necessary. But the majority members of the Commission have shown that they have little regard for the wishes of the voters. And I hope that next citizen's amendment also includes a repeal of Article 5 that gives Senators protection.

*I hope you welcome it.*

*11/10/17*

I do appreciate the opportunity to speak and your politely listening. Thank you.



*It's time to end government of the politicians, by the politicians for the politicians.*