

9/14/2021

To the members of the Redistricting Commission:

Twice now, Ohio voters have used their voices and entrusted our political leadership to listen to those voices and create district maps that are fair, balanced and actually represent the people living in those districts. Instead we have been given an embarrassingly rushed process that has missed deadlines and has left the public with little time to process the maps set forth before these hearings.

The parties of our legislative leaders do not accurately represent the voters of this state, as evidenced by the last decade of elections, and the maps that have been proposed only deepen this inaccuracy. These maps heavily favor one side and that's shameful. We should let our electoral process dictate our representatives, not maps drawn with the intent to preserve power. This also means ensuring communities of color have equal and accurate representation! To admit this was not taken into consideration, in 2021, is outright deplorable. We should be uplifting every eligible voter to exercise their constitutional right to do so, not giving them another reason to believe their vote doesn't matter. If this wasn't something Ohio voters wanted from these new maps, the language would not have been included in our constitution.

Stop playing coy, stop pleading ignorant. You know what the result of these maps would be if they move forward as is. Swallow your delusions of power and do the job that you were voted in to do and create maps that are fair, balanced and competitive. In a year that has seen sharp divisiveness and political turmoil, it's time we return to our democratic roots and listen to the voice of the people; show us that you're listening.

Sincerely,

Alexander Clark