

Date: September 14, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission

From: Deborah Cochran, 7426 Murrayfield Drive, Worthington, Ohio 43050
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Re: Testimony / written input for the record on the proposed redistricting maps for the Ohio House and Senate

I am writing to express my disappointment in the commission's proposed redistricting maps for the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. As a voter, I do not feel that these maps will result in competitive voting districts where I can elect senators and representatives who represent my demographics, views and needs. I have too frequently had a representative or senator who lives in a rural area when I live in Franklin County – the largest population center in the state, and they have no knowledge or understanding of our community needs. There is a critical need to change these gerrymandered maps that have been used since 2011. The new proposed maps are no better and there is a need to go back and redraw different more compact, and competitive maps that are responsive to the need of all voters.

Also, I do not feel that the process used conforms to the will of the voters in developing the redistricting commission. The new maps need to be **responsive to the will of all voters**. I would like to ask the commission to go back to the drawing board and do the following:

- Use current racial and demographic data from the 2020 US census to evaluate districts for representativeness (it is my understanding that the leaders of the Ohio House and Senate directed you not to use this data). That is the purpose of the census, and this data needs to be used and the commission needs to evaluate districts based on the economic, demographic, racial and ethnic make-up from the census data.
- Make districts more compact. Your proposed maps still represent a patchwork quilt that could be cleaned up with more compact districts with a greater number of contiguous counties resulting in more competitive districts.
- Keep cities whole as much as possible so citizens are not voting in different districts (you have continued to split up cities and population centers in Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Cuyahoga, Summit, and Stark counties that could be kept whole. Start out by keeping these areas whole as much as possible.
- Conduct a racially polarized voting analysis (like used in the Voting Rights Act) to balance districts to ensure that:
 - There is not extreme packing or cracking of cities and / or large metropolitan counties / population centers.
 - To guarantee that minority voters can have their voices heard and their votes counted.
 - To draw maps to produce more competitive districts and to determine this by using prior voting statistics from the 2011 to 2020 elections to run simulations to determine what the outcome of elections would have been in the new map configurations for both the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate races. This will ensure that the proportion of seats also reflects the proportion of the votes by party. This proposed map continues to promote the gerrymandered districts we have had for the last 10 years.