

My name is Kay Chapman, and I live in Plain Township in Wood County. I'm an Ohio native, born and raised mostly in the town of Curtice, and partly in Lucas County. I'm a veteran of the Ohio National Guard, and I served as the animal cruelty investigator for the Wood County Humane Society for many years.

I've lived here my whole life and many problems have endured as long as I remember: The Maumee River is polluted, Lake Erie is polluted, the animal cruelty laws are shameful, and I see no progress toward addressing these problems.

I traveled to Toledo today because I support a fair redistricting process that should be open to public input, as required by the reforms voted into law in 2015 and 2018. You already know—and other people here have, or will, mention—that voters supported those reforms overwhelmingly. I want to add my voice to those that are calling for a non-partisan approach to drawing our district maps. There should be NO preference for any specific political party, and NO aim to keep anyone in, or remove anyone from, elected office.

That must be for the voters of each district to decide, in all fairness. I believe it's when politicians have "safe seats" due to gerrymandering that our problems tend to get ignored like cans kicked down the road.

I just want to add that, from the standpoint of "public input," I'm not very happy so far. It looks like only 10 hearings have been scheduled by this commission for millions of Ohio residents. I believe the times of hearings were announced only 2 weeks ago, and all of them are set in urban centers, during business hours, in the middle of the week. This makes it hard, if not impossible, for the great majority of people to get here. It's very tricky to park on a university campus and very easy to wind up with a ticket in the process. Also, isn't this kind of a small building for an important public event? I guess you wanted to be certain that only people who REALLY care about redistricting would show up!

Well, I really care. Please take the message you get here today to heart — draw the maps that fair-minded people all across Ohio want and deserve.

Thank you.