

My name is Michael Galbraith. I'm a native and resident of Maumee, Ohio. I'm a small businessman, and I was the Democratic Party's candidate for US Congress for Ohio's 5<sup>th</sup> District in 2018. As such, I partially retraced the footsteps of my father, John Galbraith, who served as a Republican in the Ohio Statehouse from 1967 to 1986.

For much of the time when my father was in office, Democrats controlled both chambers in Columbus.....the result of Democratic gerrymandering during some of that time. Statewide, however, for most of that time, Republicans lived in the Governor's mansion.

After the 2010 Census was published in 2011 and now that Republicans controlled the layout of Ohio's districting map, the carving out of Ohio State Senate and State Representative districts gave new meaning to the term gerrymandering. Any semblance of rational and/or fair districting at any level was simply thrown out the window in a state which for decades has voted only a few points either side of 50% for most statewide candidates.

In 2015 and 2018, the voters of Ohio twice demanded by large majorities to end these irrational carve outs and demanded that state and federal districts in the state of Ohio be drawn in a rational and coherent fashion by an independent commission.

When I was campaigning throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I found that I had difficulty understanding what the farmers of Paulding and Hardin Counties had in common with suburban voters in Sylvania or Perrysburg.

In a democracy, voters choose their representatives.....politicians must not be allowed to choose their voters.

To that end, state and congressional districts should be drawn in a geographically rational contiguous way where voters within those districts have common cultural and community interests.

Make no mistake. What goes around comes around and if the current level of irrational district carveouts continues, the authors will end up paying a heavy price.

