

Testimony
August 26, 2021
Beverly R Gottlieb

My name is Beverly R Gottlieb. My current address is 4120 King Rd., Apt. 302, Sylvania, Ohio 43560. I vote in Congressional District 5, known as the "Snake on the Lake". I am here to describe how gerrymandering has diluted my vote and the votes of others by the gerrymandering of Congressional District 5 since 2010.

I grew up in Toledo, Ohio, in a household with parents who discussed issues and candidates at the dinner table. My first experience of seeing and hearing a candidate was when my father took me to see Barry Goldwater at the University of Toledo. As I developed into an adult, I researched candidates and their position on issues. I based my vote on which candidate represented my values. At 21, I attended a meeting where I heard a young Marcy Kaptur speak as a candidate for the House of Representatives. Each time a candidate ran against her, I reassessed for whom I would cast my vote. For the past 10 years, my vote has been diluted because Sylvania Township became part of Congressional District 5. Because Lucas County had been split, rural and small town voters overwhelmed my vote with very different interests. Furthermore, Congressional District 5 was no longer continuous or compact. As a result, my U.S. Representative was no longer Marcy Kaptur and I no longer had the opportunity to vote for her, if I chose.

For the past 10 years, my U.S. Representative has been Bob Latta. When proposed legislation has come up, I have called his office to voice my viewpoint. Each time, I learned that he had voted the opposite way from my desire. He does not represent me or the majority of Sylvania voters who are registered as Democrats. Particularly, I was greatly disturbed when Representative Latta voted against the certification of the 2020 presidential election!

I am here today to give person testimony on how my vote has been diminished and I want the Commission to be transparent as to the map drawing of congressional district as well as keep Lucas County in one continuous and compact district.

Thank you.
Beverly R. Gottlieb