

**Ohio Redistricting Commission  
Zanesville Hearing  
August 25, 2021**

Good morning Commissioners. My name is Katy Shanahan and I'm the Ohio State Director for All On The Line, a grassroots advocacy organization that's working to end gerrymandering.

I came up in politics as an organizer, so I'm going to rely on one of my favorite slogans to carry my message because today, I'm fired up and I'm ready to go.

I'm fired up because - as you've heard all week - Ohioans (myself included) are frustrated that this process is already failing to meet the demands of our reform measures. These hearings - all scheduled in-person on weekdays during business hours - are inaccessible to too many Ohioans.

But I'm ready to go because I know that we Ohioans will still show up and we will show out for the fair maps that we deserve.

I'm fired up because my own community is a victim of gerrymandering. My Senate district includes the entirety of Delaware and Knox Counties - two counties that are mostly rural and conservative, but it dips down into Franklin County to grab just one House seat...mine - one that is overwhelmingly Democratic and urban. By grabbing my House seat, my Senate district lines crack me apart from other, more similar communities inside Columbus to instead drown my voice into a district where my vote is essentially meaningless.

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I'm fired up because for too long, Ohioans have been denied real political representation because of our gerrymandered districts. Our districts were drawn behind closed doors in 2011 to gerrymander Ohio's Republicans into supermajorities in seats that they just aren't winning in votes at the ballot box.

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For more than two years, my job has been to organize Ohioans around the issue of redistricting, to educate communities about how we've been impacted by gerrymandering, and to equip volunteers with the tools they need to engage in this work. In that time, my colleague and I have met with more than 3,000 Ohioans about this issue and I can tell you that the people of this state are fired up and ready for fair maps.

All Ohioans - no matter who we are or where we live - from the Ohio River to Lake Erie and from Dayton to Marietta deserve to live in a state where we as voters choose our leaders and where

we can hold them accountable when they step out of line. For too long, Ohioans have been denied real political representation because of our gerrymandered districts. This year we have an opportunity to fix that and to right the ship of our democracy right here in Ohio - but only if we take it. Like I've said, Ohioans are fired up and they're ready to go.

**The only question today is - are all of you?**

We need you to meet us halfway. We need you to deliver for the people of Ohio. We need you to deliver us the fair maps that we so desperately need and deserve. We're fired up and we're ready to go - and we'll keep fighting until we win on redistricting.

Thank you - I'm happy to take any questions you have.

Katy Shanahan  
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Columbus, Ohio