

**Testimony by Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio
Before the Ohio Redistricting Commission
September 22, 2023
Deer Creek State Park**



My name is Catherine Turcer and I am the executive director of Common Cause Ohio. I have been advocating for fair districts and fair elections since the late 1990s. I am here today to encourage you all to review previous testimony and explore the state legislative maps that have been proposed to the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

In 2021 702 Ohions testified at the regional hearings. They urged the commission to create a truly transparent process, to focus on keeping communities together, and highlighted that they wanted to participate in truly meaningful elections. We are here today because the Ohio Supreme Court repeatedly sent the Commission back to the drawing board and then the Commission delayed for over a year. Today, we are in a state park; in 2021, there were hearings in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lima, Mansfield, Rio Grande, Toledo, Youngstown, and Zanesville. I say this because you are missing an opportunity to truly hear from the public. Many of you weren't part of the Ohio Redistricting Commission for the first regional hearings and I urge you to take a close look at the state legislative district proposals submitted by Fair Districts Ohio and the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission. Please spend some time exploring the community maps that were submitted previously and are available on [Districtr.org](https://www.districtr.org).

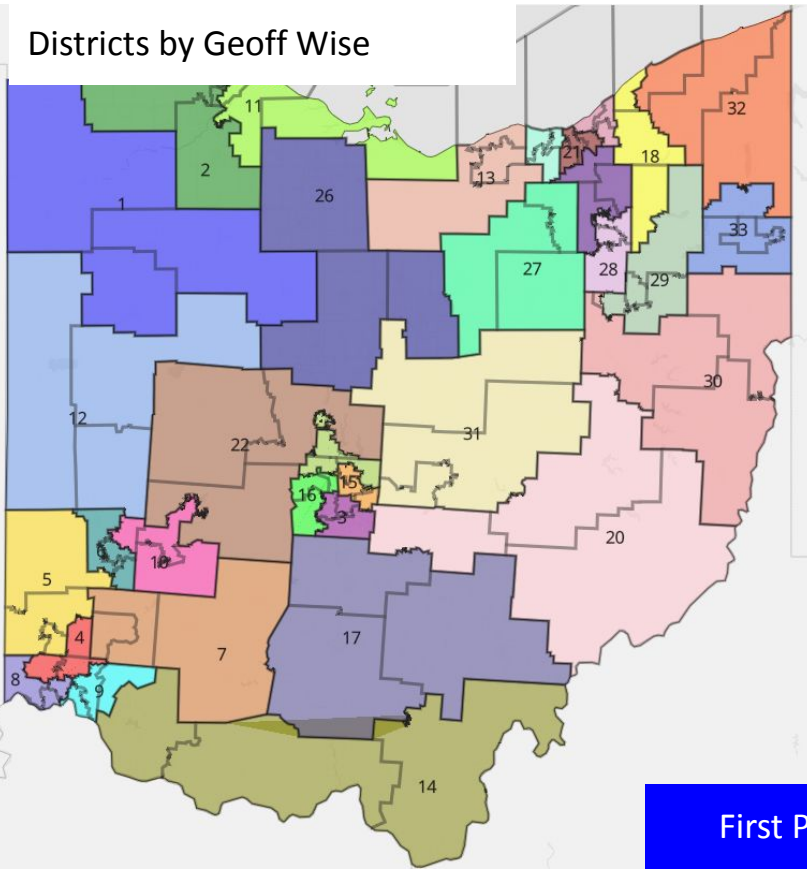
Hundreds of Ohioans attended hearings in 2021 & 2022, eager to share their thoughts and hopes for Ohio's maps. But looking around the room today you see a different story. Because of the foot dragging, backroom mapmaking, and repeated redraws, many Ohioans are so frustrated that they've given up. They don't believe that you will listen to them or produce fair maps that abide by the letter and law of our redistricting rules. That doesn't mean that you should give up on your oath to abide by the Ohio Constitution. I remind you that 71% of Ohio voters supported amendments to the Ohio Constitution to do away with exactly the kind of gerrymandering we see in the maps under consideration by this Commission today. I strongly encourage you to truly deliberate— in public— over the district lines. Please discuss and debate the merits and take the time necessary to create district lines that keep communities together and do not unduly favor one political party over another.

Thank you.

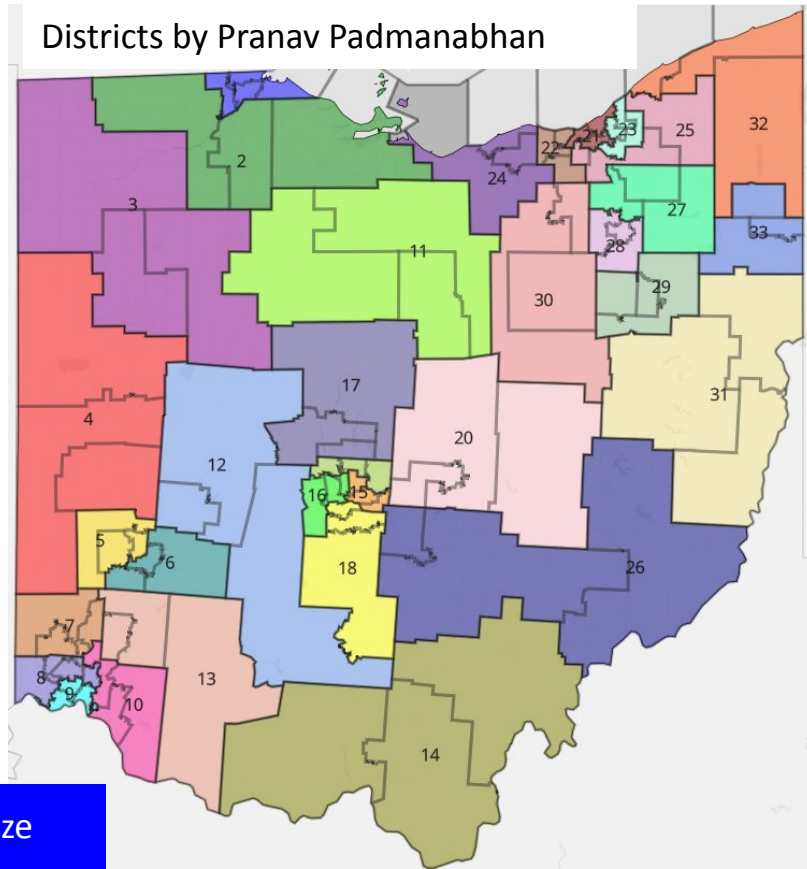
Fair Districts Mapping Competition Working Group

- Jeff Cabot, Fair Districts = Fair Elections treasurer, member of Columbus City Council's Residential Redistricting Commission, former executive director of Kids Voting of Central Ohio.
- Brian Glassman, Professor Emeritus, Cleveland Marshall College of Law
- Sam Gresham, Jr., chair of Common Cause Ohio, former CEO of the Columbus Urban League, and former executive director for the Ohio Commission on African-American Males
- Ann Henkener, League of Women Voters of Ohio, attorney
- Brad Henry, CEO of EduTechnologic, LLC and Founder of Get The Vote Out
- Bill Hershey, former Columbus Bureau Chief of the Dayton Daily News
- Joan Lawrence, former State Representative, former director of the Ohio Department of Aging, and former president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio
- Dr. David Niven, Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati Dept. of Political Science
- Shari Obrenski, President of the Cleveland Teachers Union
- Dr. Stephanie Casey Pierce, Postdoctoral Scholar, John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University
- Deepak Puri, Co-Founder and CEO of Democracy Labs
- Maggie Scotece, disability rights and civil rights attorney
- Katy Shanahan, Ohio State Director, All On The Line
- Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches
- Raju Sunny, Director of Technology at Parsec Solutions
- Andre Washington, Midwest Regional Representative & Ohio State President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

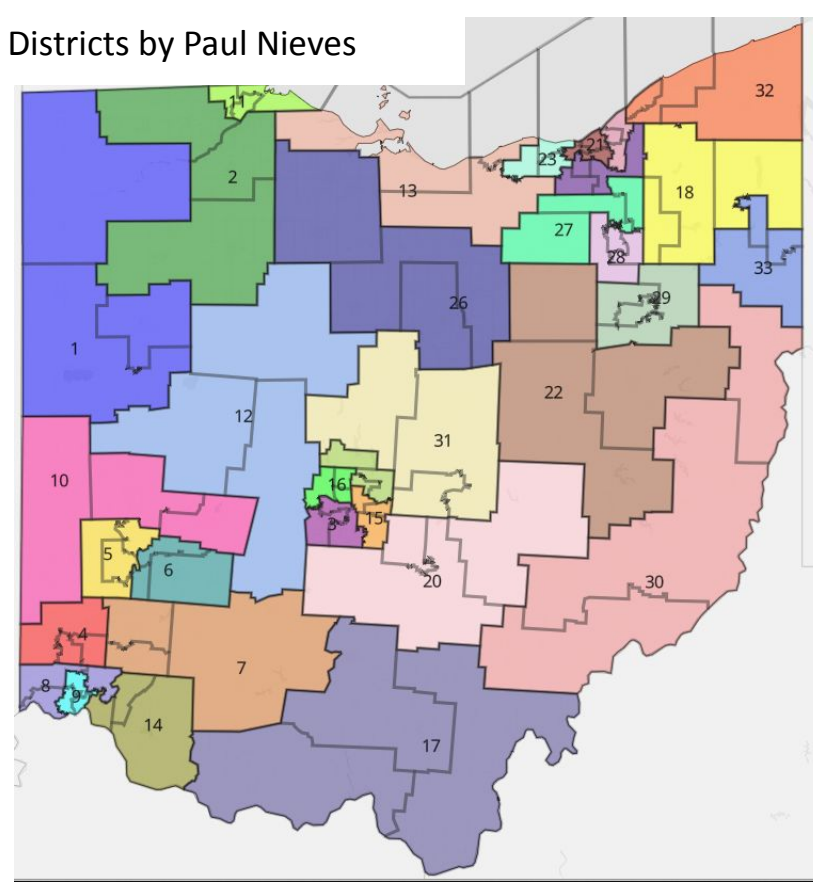
Districts by Geoff Wise



Districts by Pranav Padmanabhan



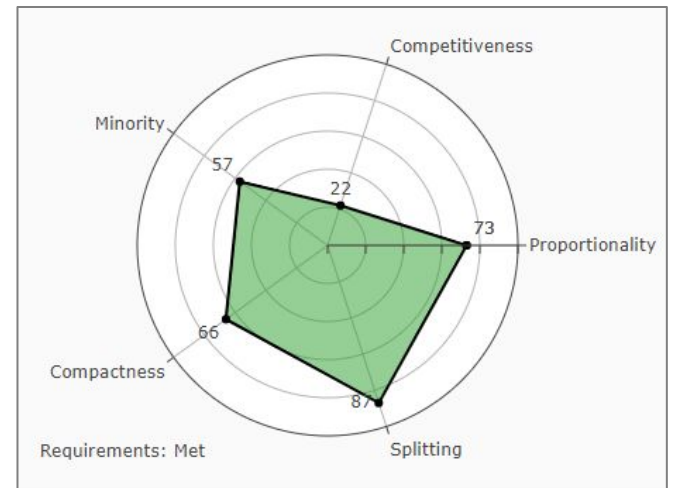
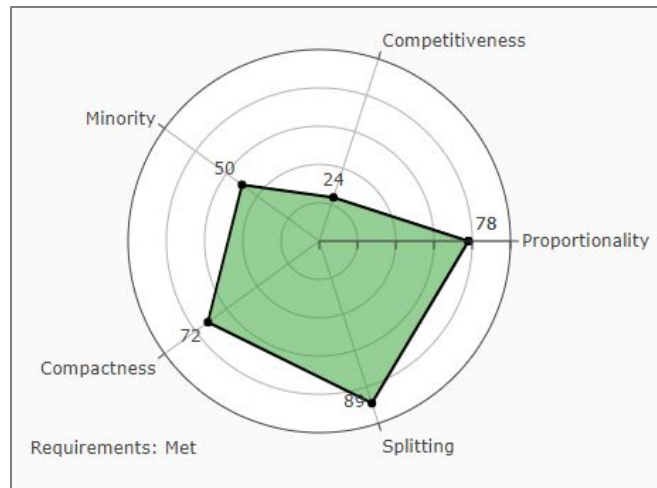
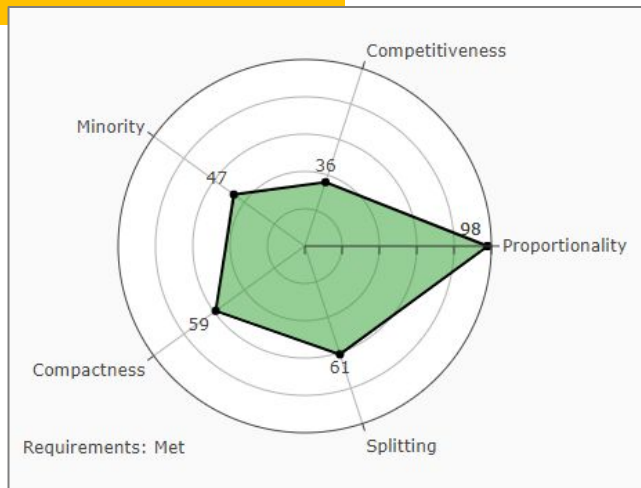
Districts by Paul Nieves



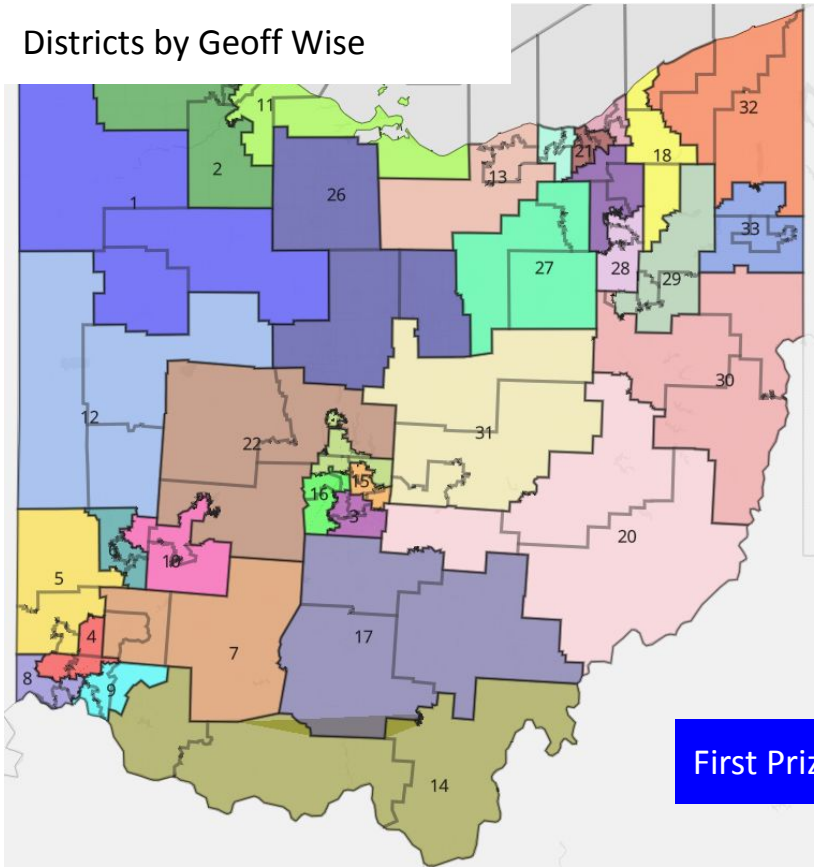
First Prize

Ohio Senate

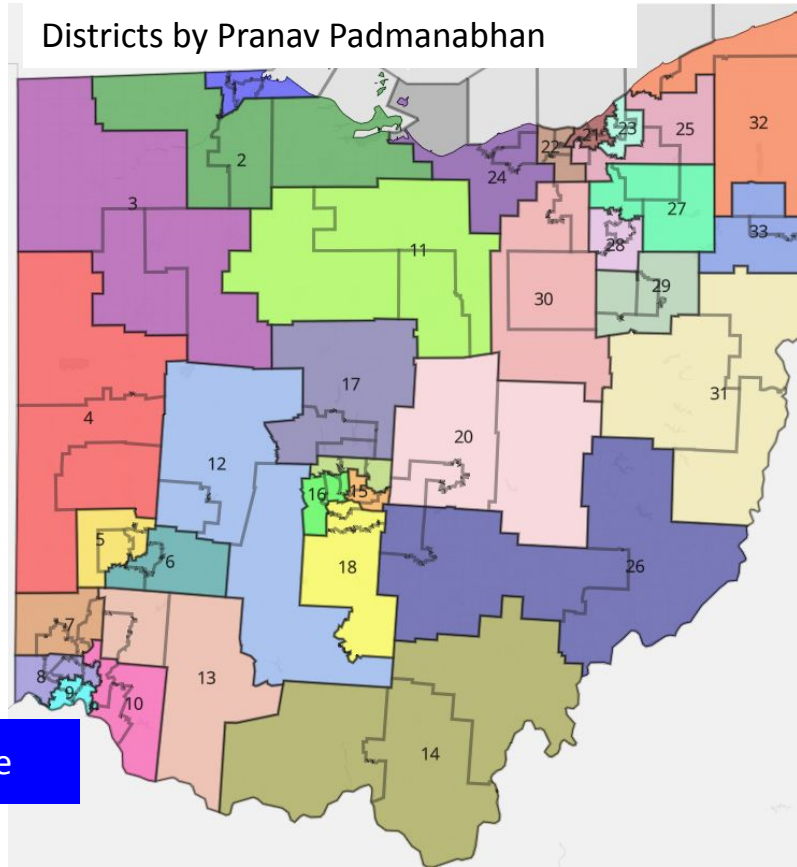
Measurements & Images Developed through the use of Dave's Redistricting App



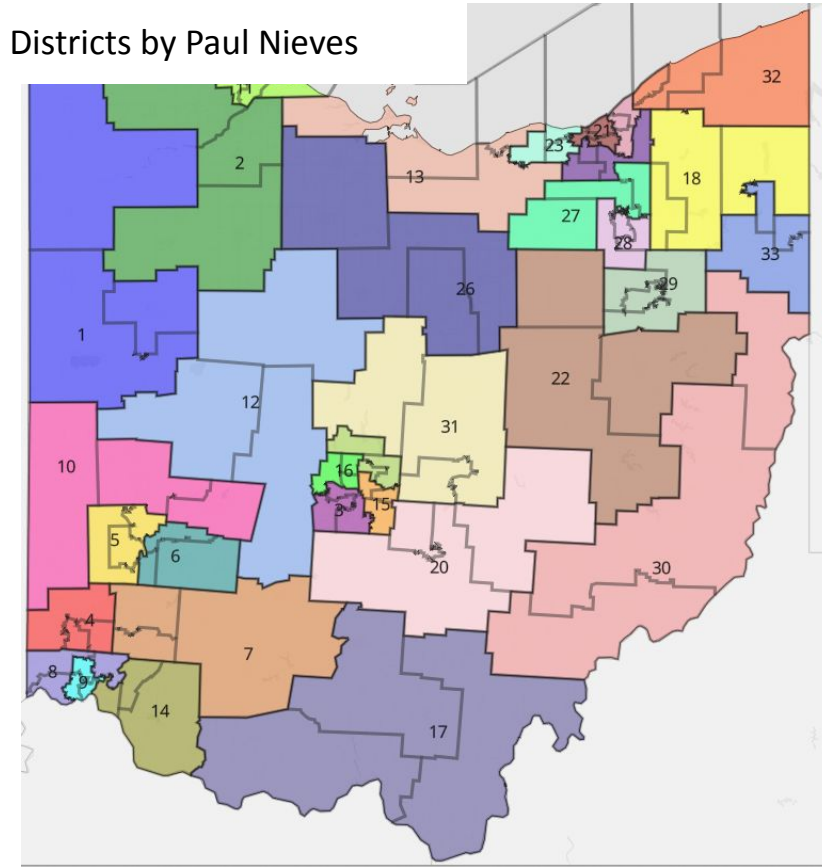
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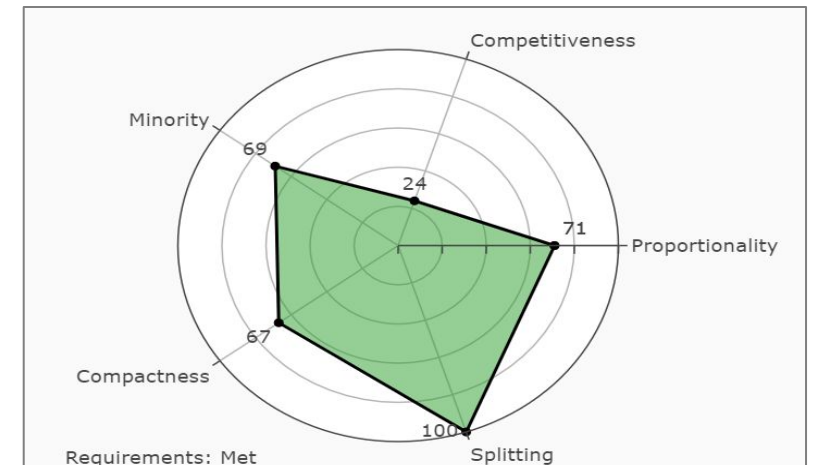
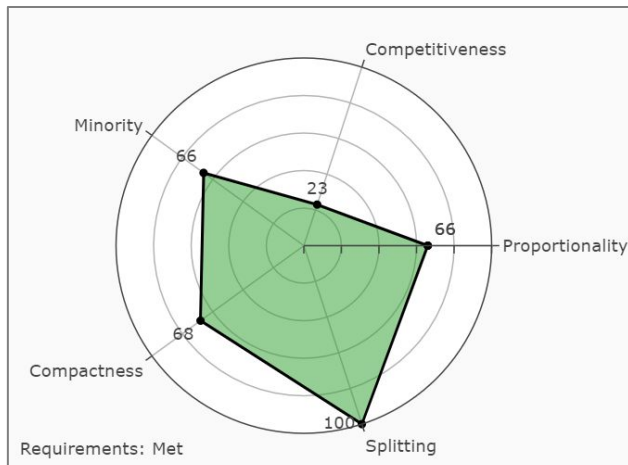
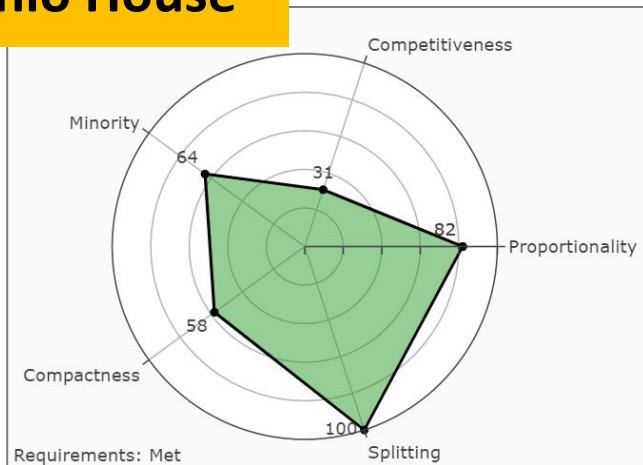
Districts by Paul Nieves



First Prize

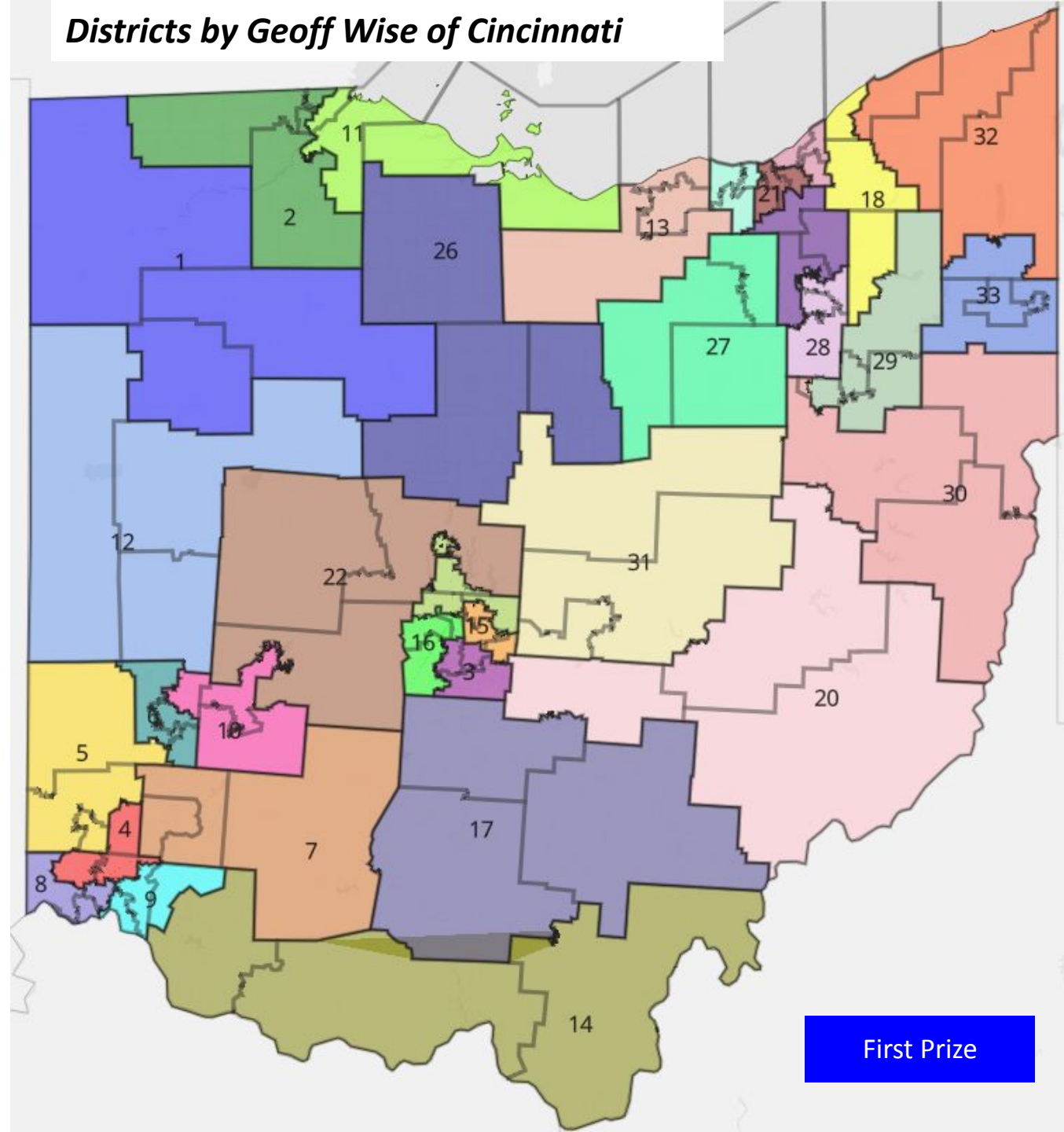
Measurements & Images Developed through the use of Dave's Redistricting App

Ohio House

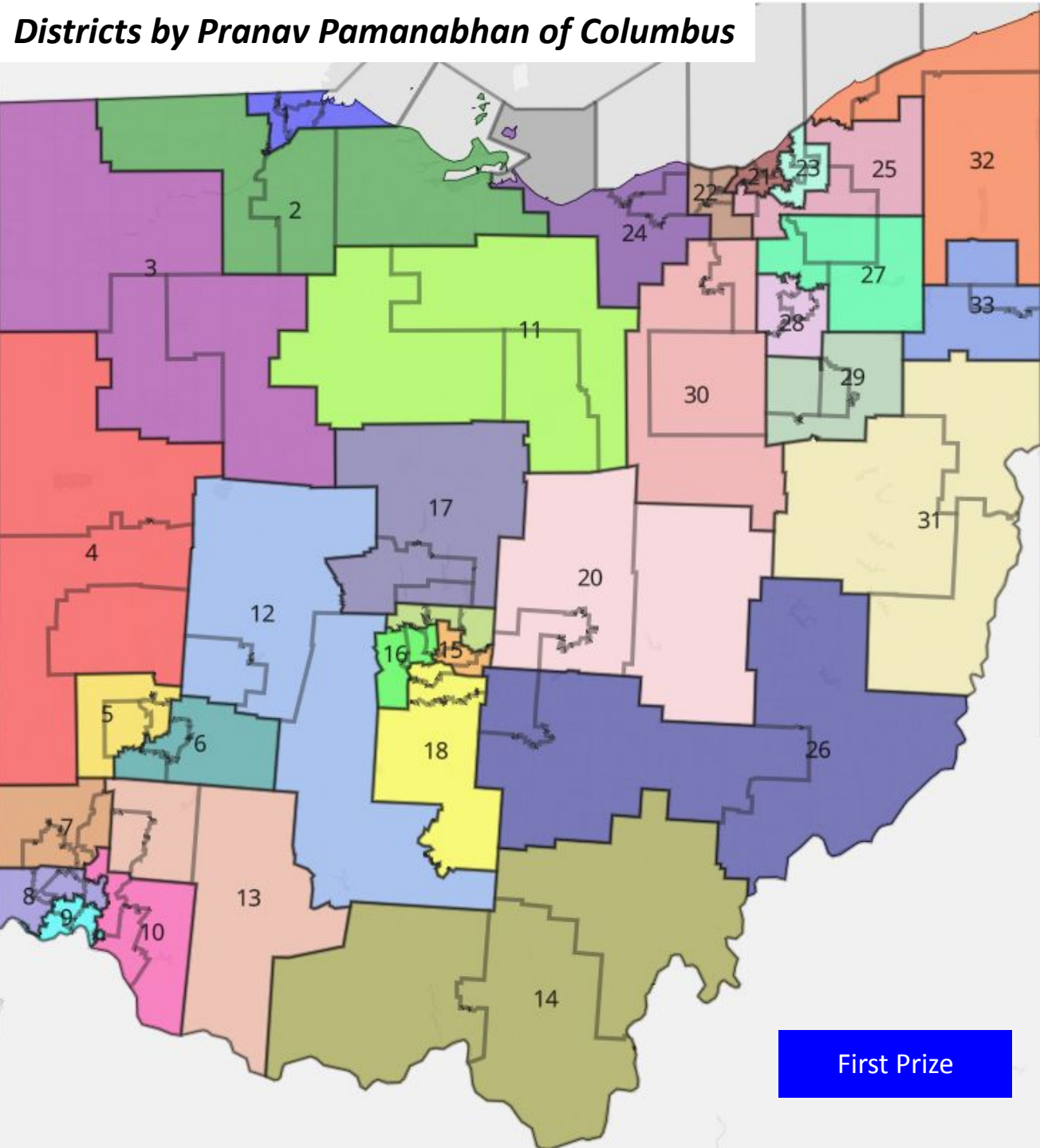


Districts by Geoff Wise of Cincinnati

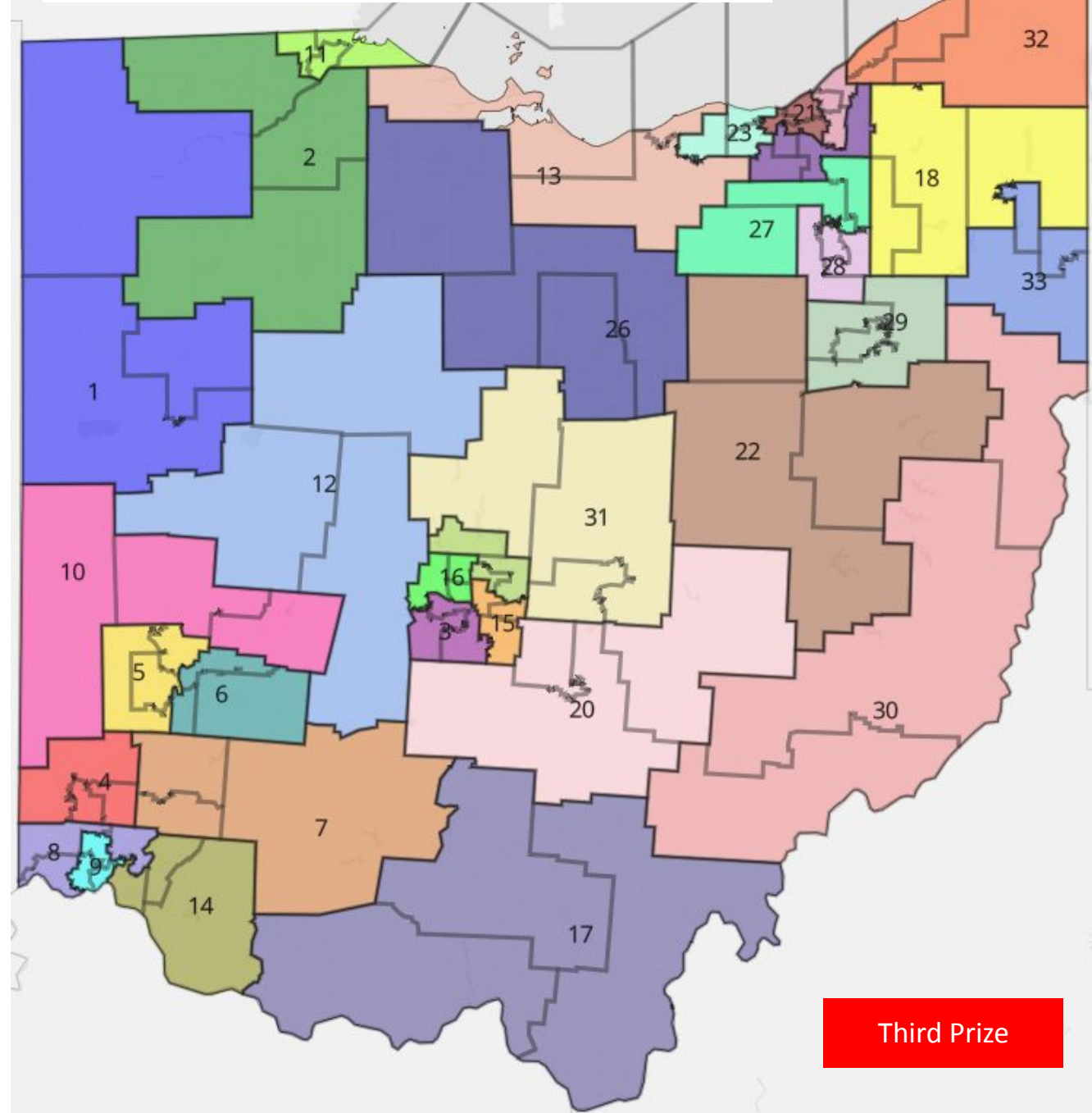
“I have analyzed the Sykes and the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission maps and determined that they have emphasized proportionality over district competitiveness. I am therefore proposing a more competitive map that also strikes a more natural balance between GOP and Dem interests.”



“To capture relevant communities of interest, I consulted numerous citizen-created maps. In Ohio, a state with ‘home rule,’ school district boundaries are also a great way to define communities and these boundaries were strongly considered, especially in suburban areas.”



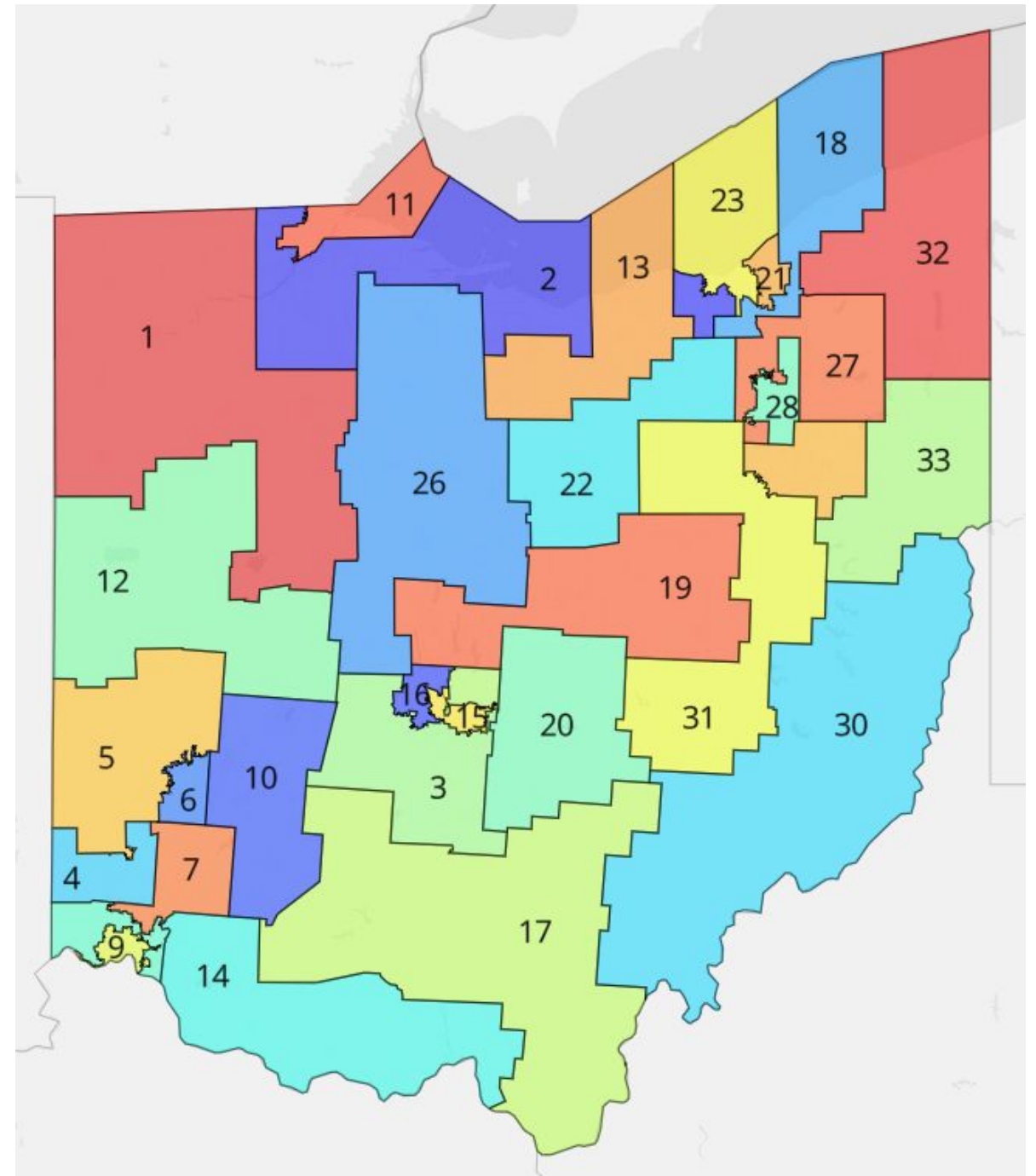
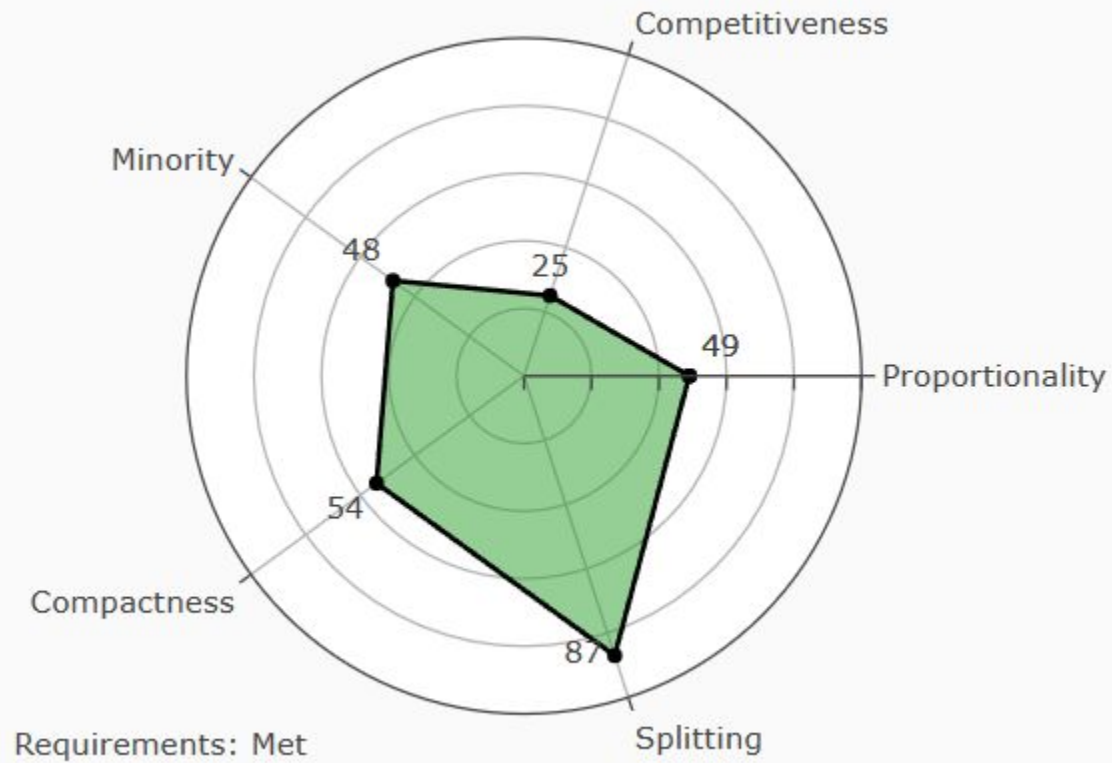
Districts by Paul Nieves of Yonkers, NY



Third Prize

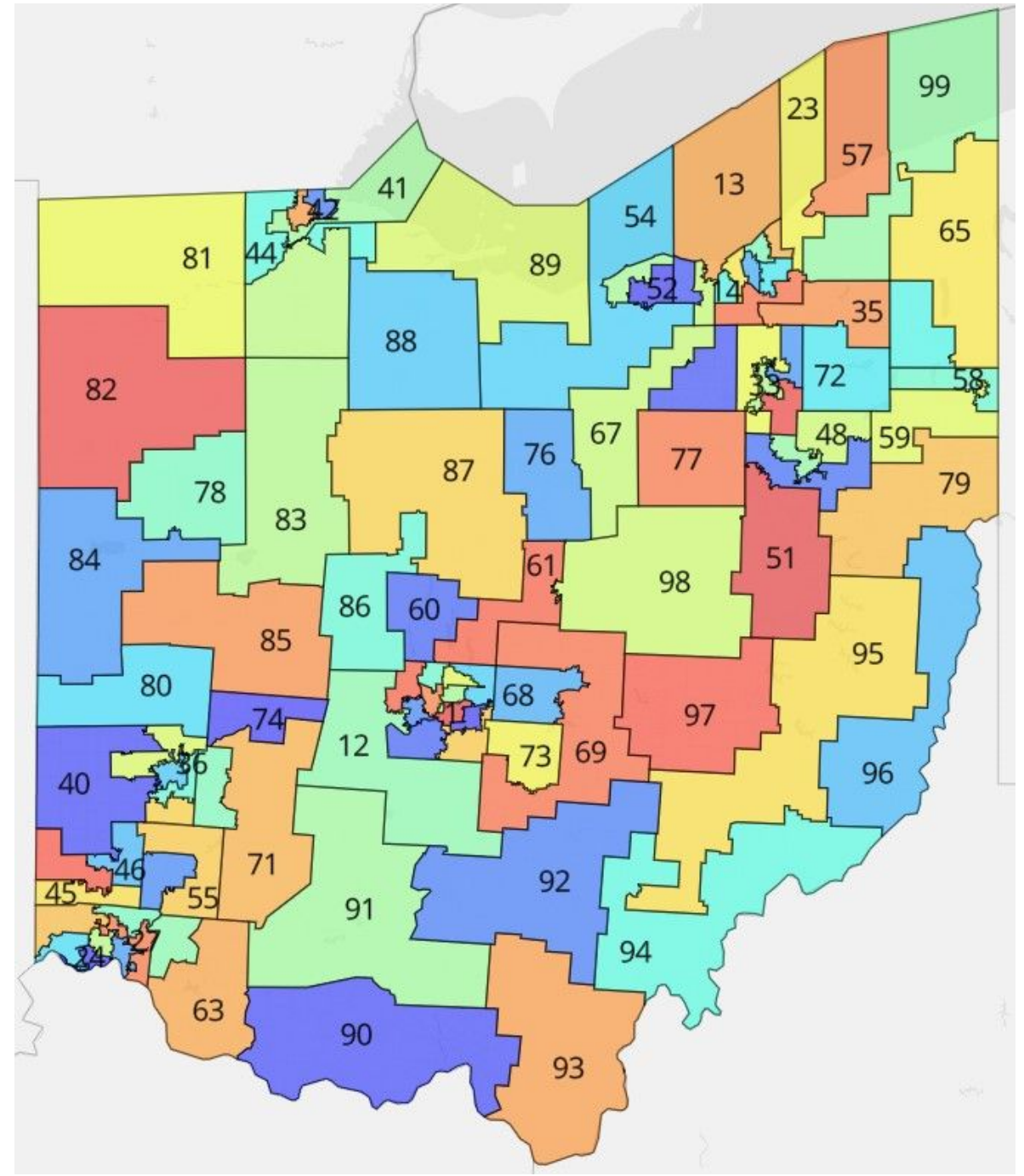
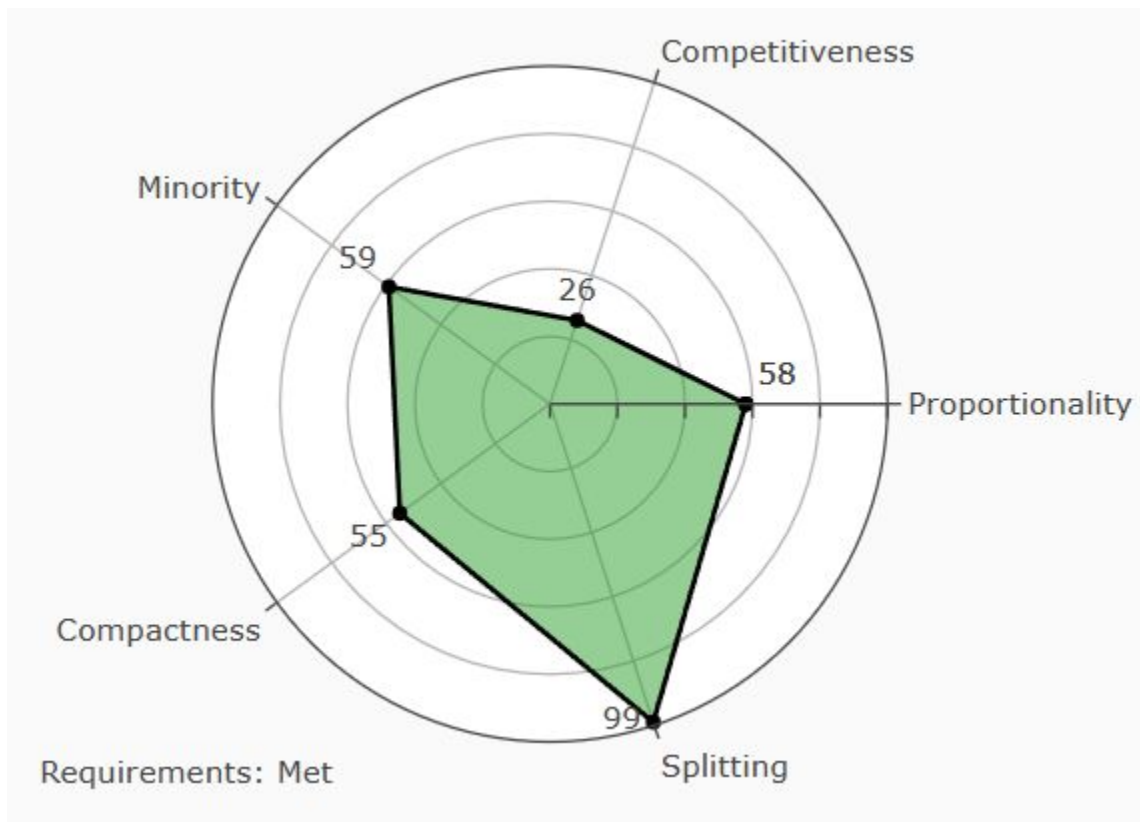
“In addition to the Community Maps, I also used the online U.S. Statistical Atlas for some unofficial neighborhood boundaries. My district maps contrast with the actual maps by reducing partisan bias, while doing a better job of making more compact districts that better respect communities of interest, including minority groups.”

Officially Proposed on 9/20/23: Ohio Senate



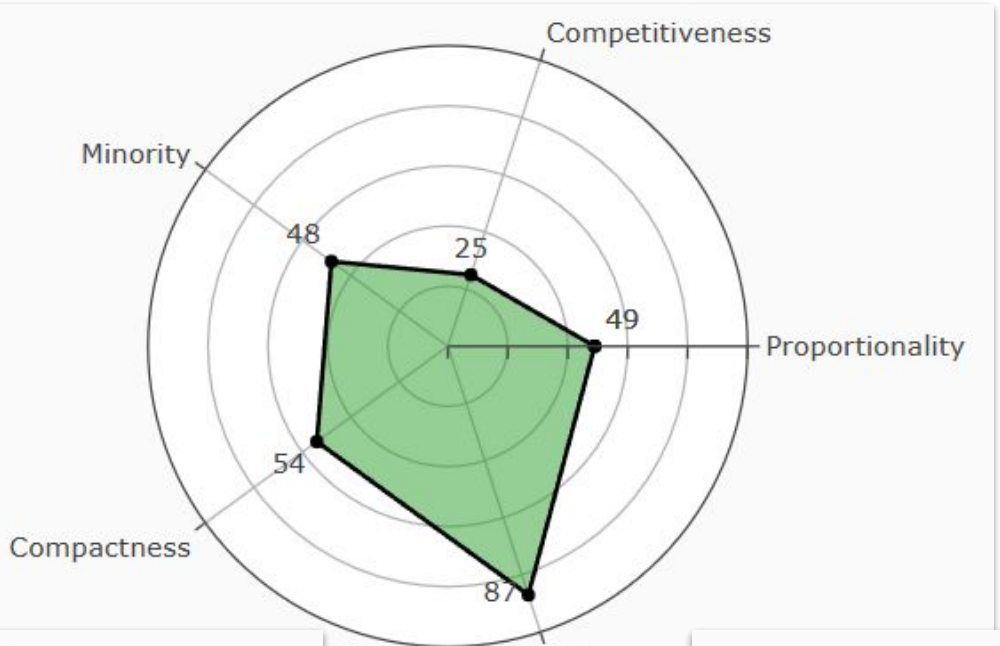
Measurements Developed through the use of Dave's Redistricting App

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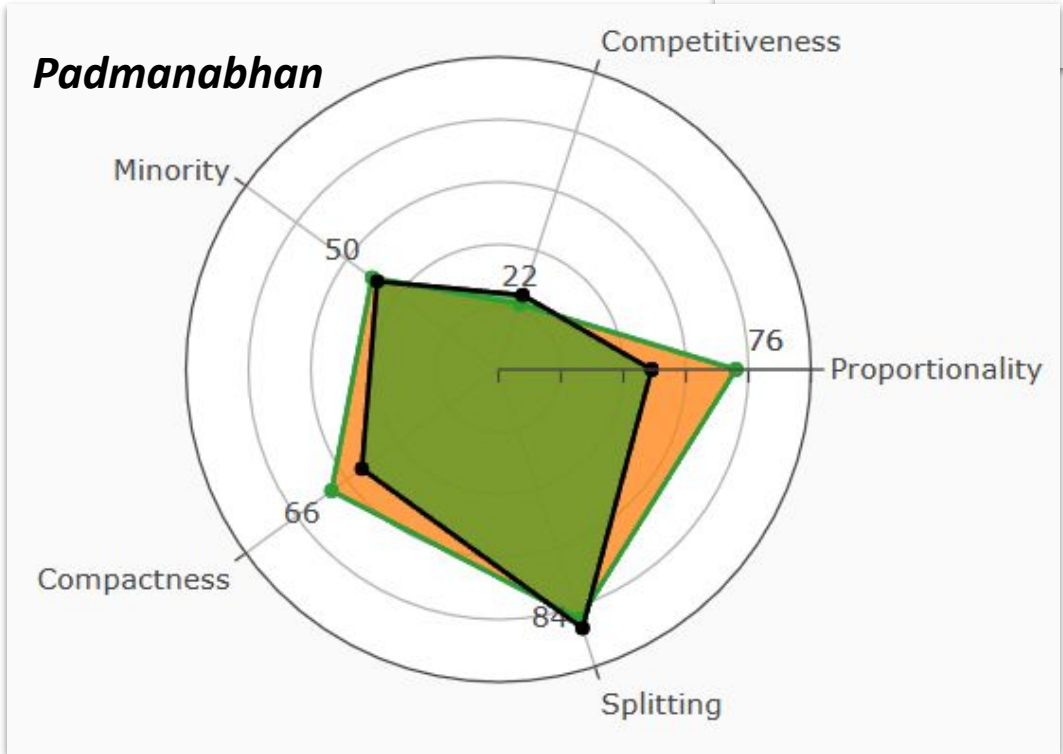


Measurements Developed through the use of Dave's Redistricting App

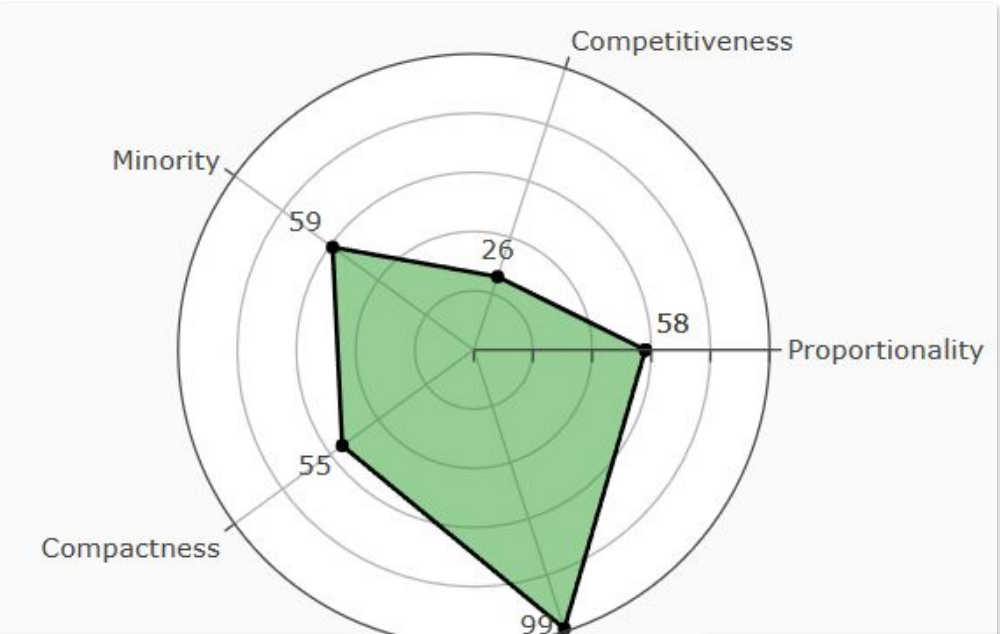
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*Measurements Developed through the use of
Dave's Redistricting App*

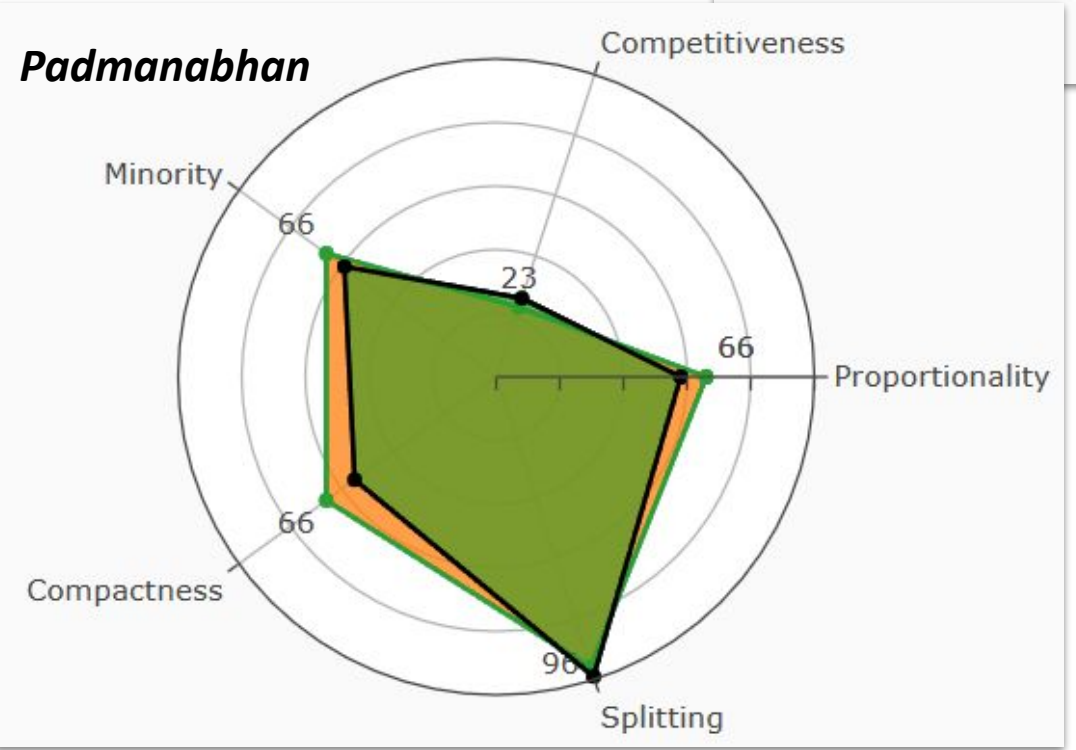


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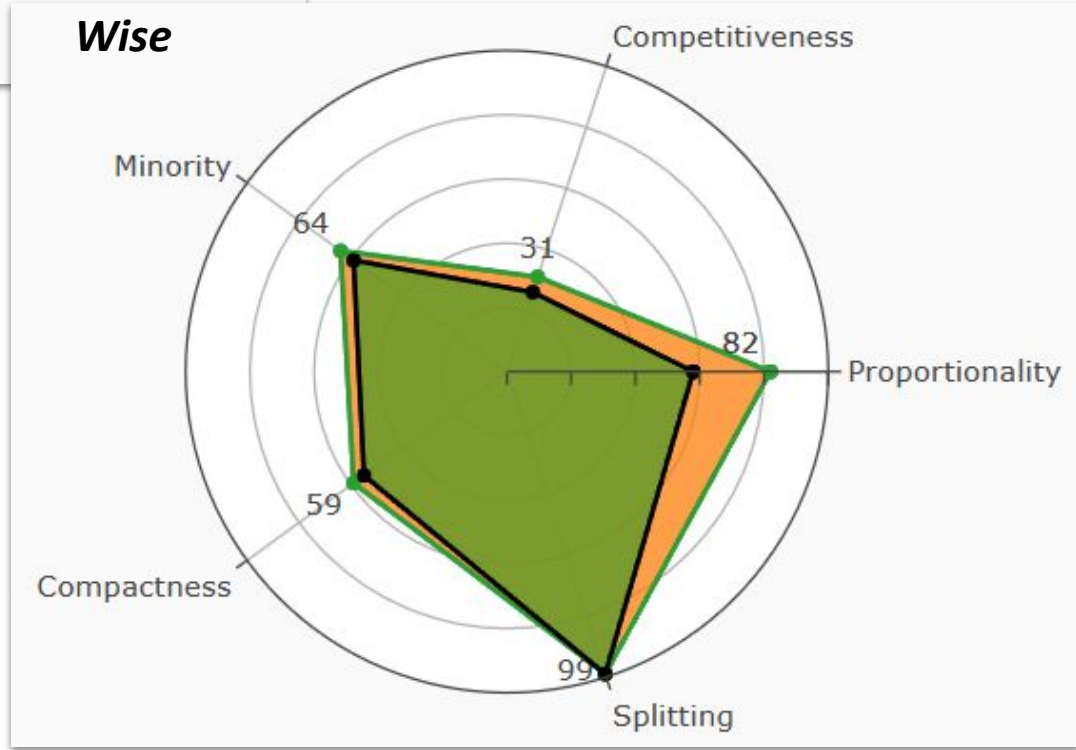


Measurements developed through the use of Dave's Redistricting App

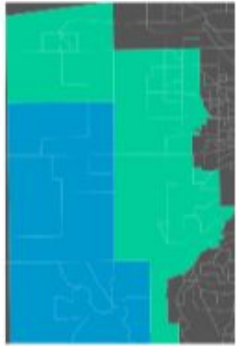
Padmanabhan



Wise

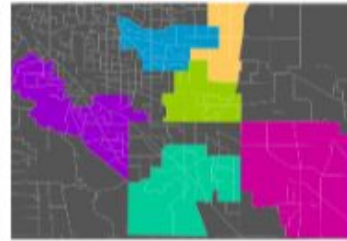


Community maps available at www.districtr.org/event/Fair-Districts-OH



LWVGD map of Montgomery Co. West
ID: 43237

Ohio
Communities of Interest
from 2020 Block Groups
Updated
9/5/2021, 10:47:37 AM



Alpha Kappa Alpha team 1
ID: 42469

Ohio
Communities of Interest
from 2020 Block Groups
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9/3/2021, 10:35:44 AM



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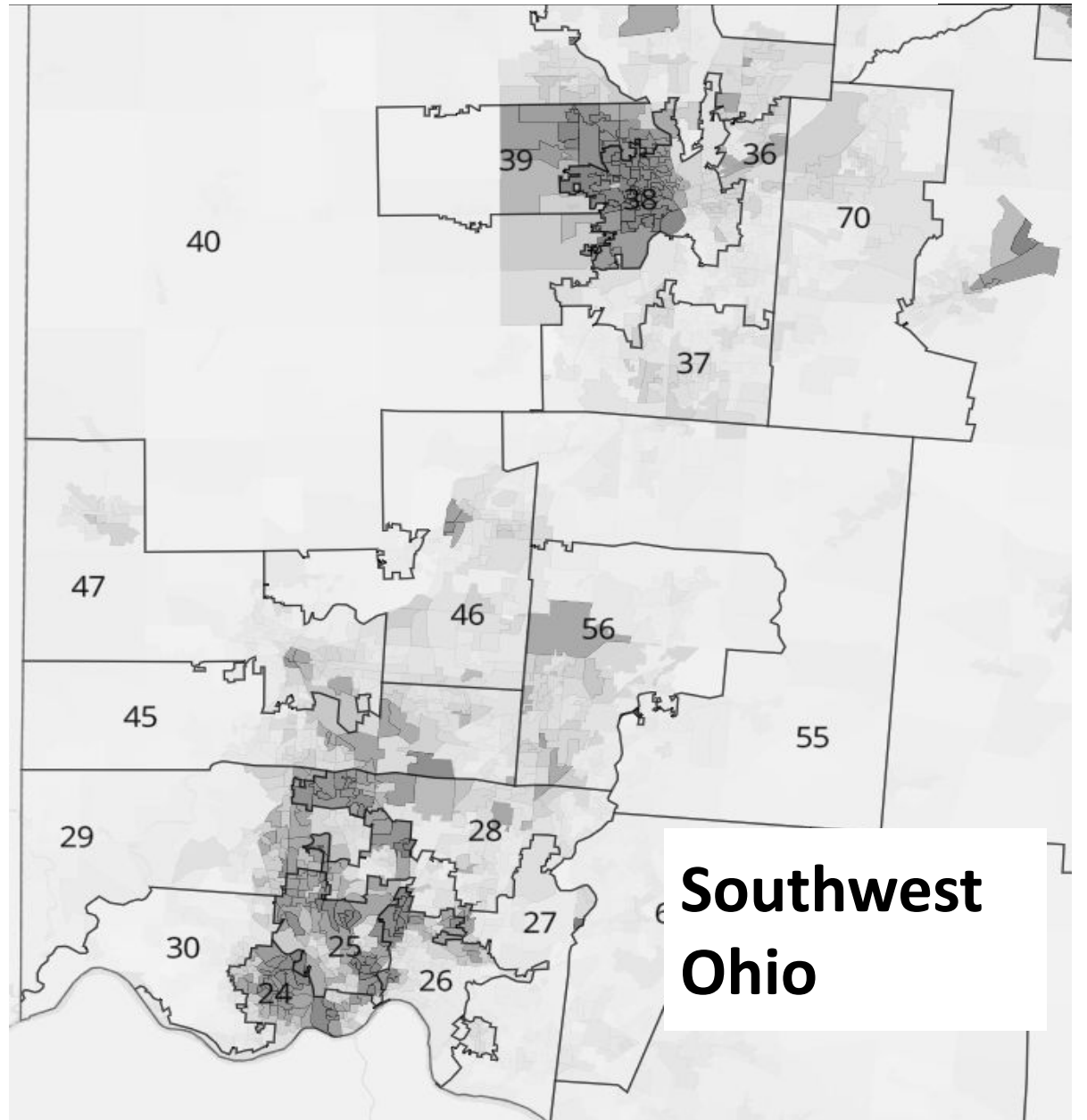
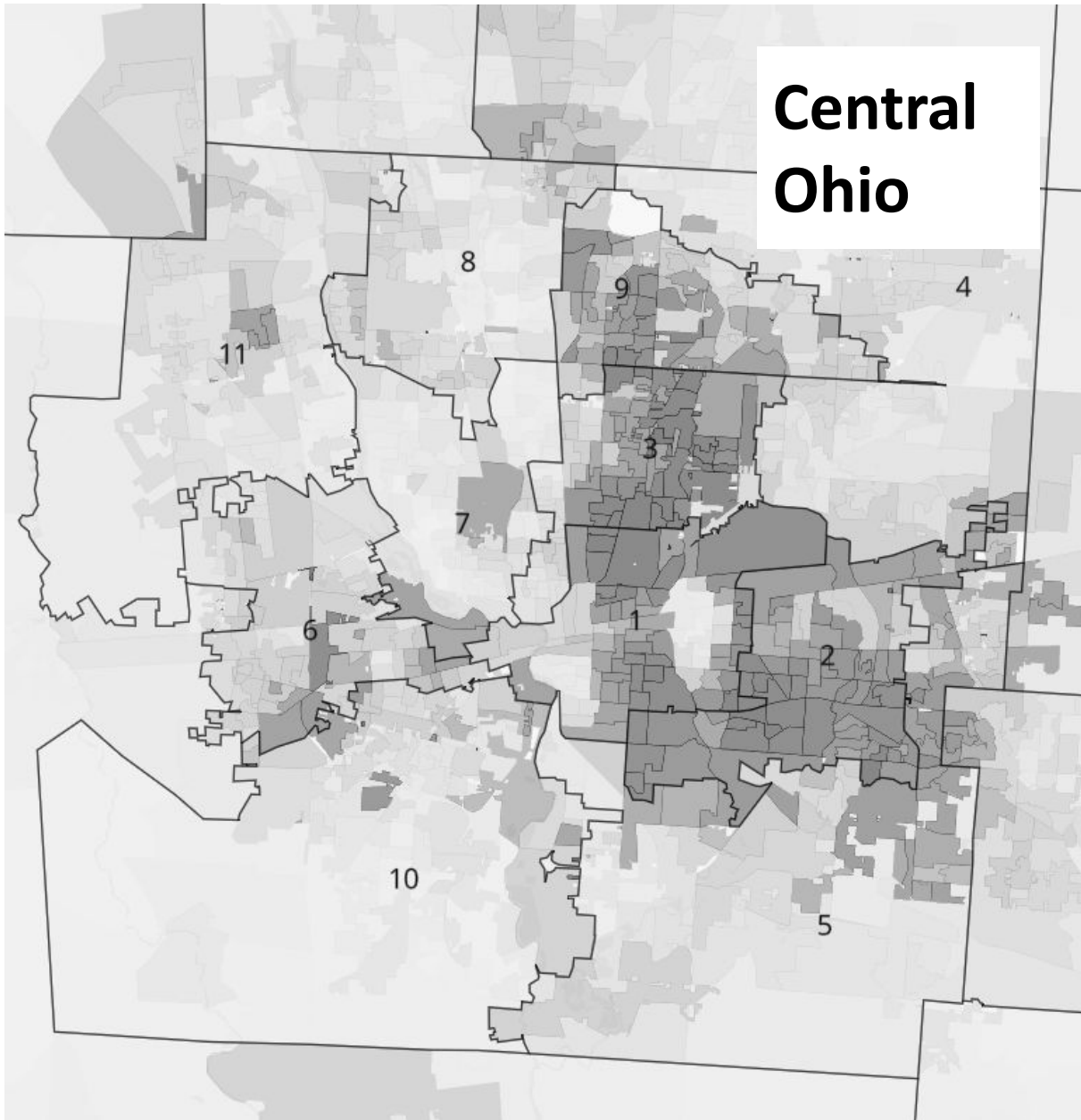
Greater Cleveland
Communities of Interest
from Block Groups
Updated
8/31/2021, 8:37:24 PM



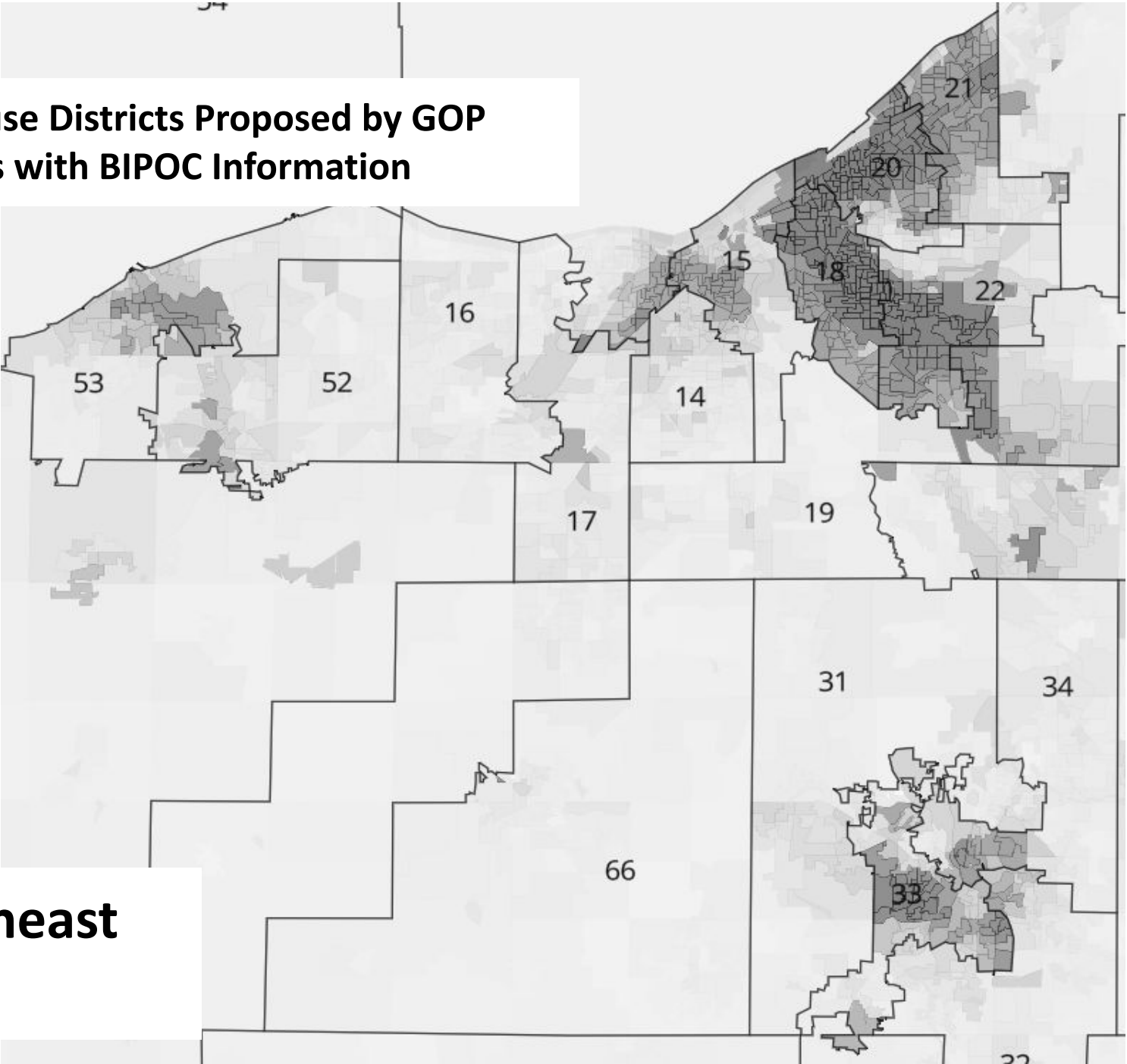
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Greater Cleveland
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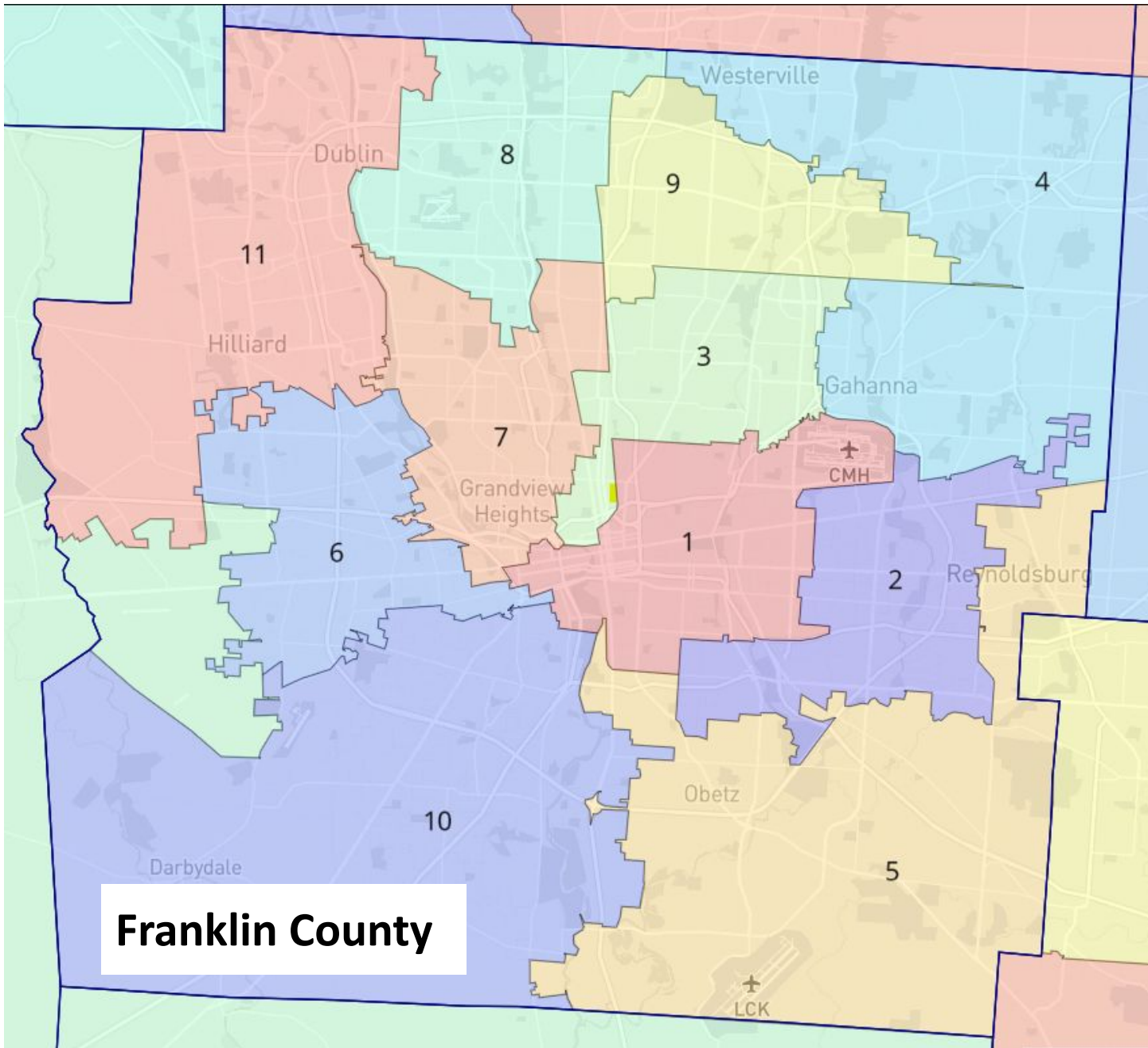
Ohio House Districts Proposed by GOP Members with BIPOC Information



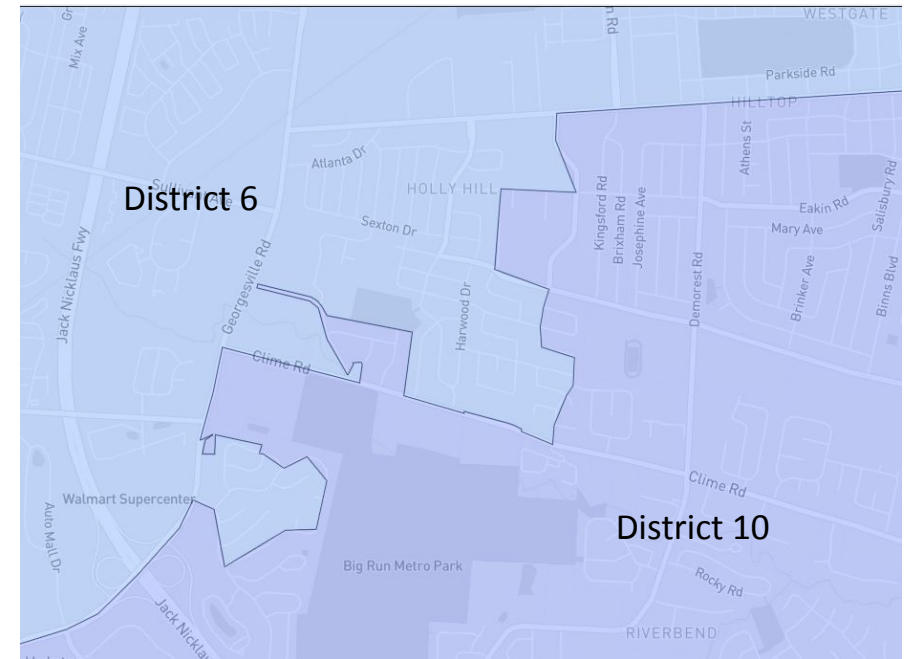
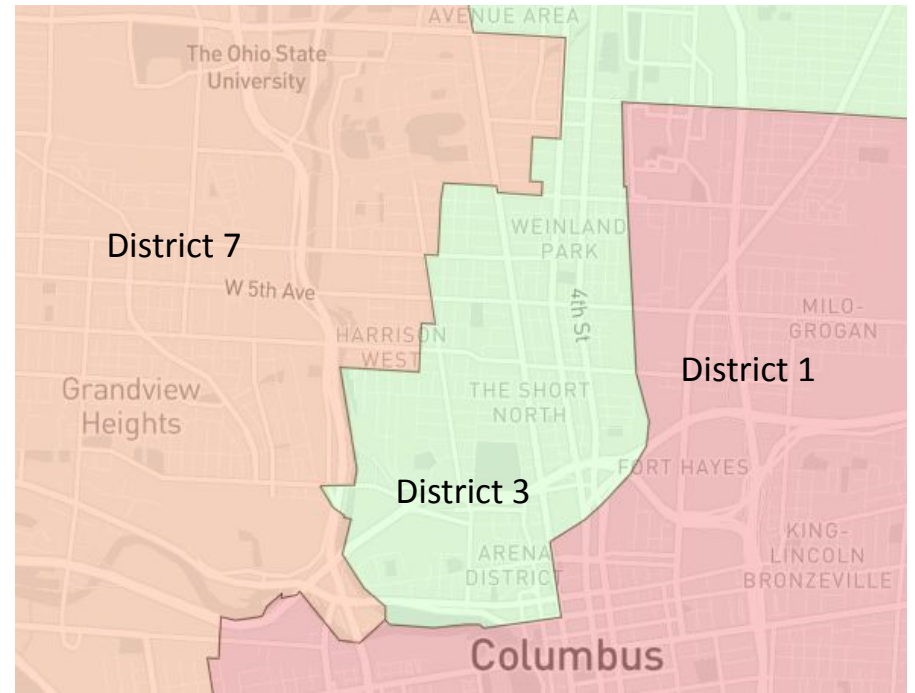
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Members with BIPOC Information**

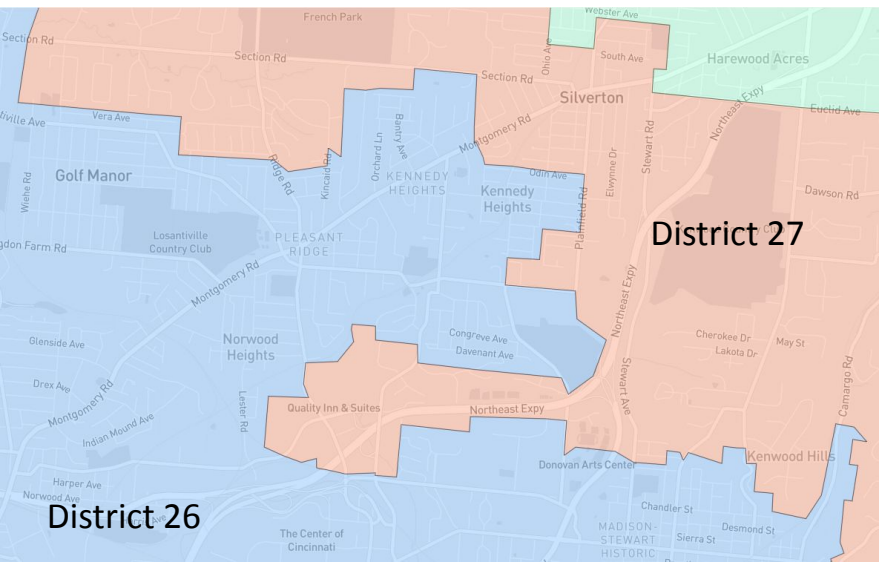
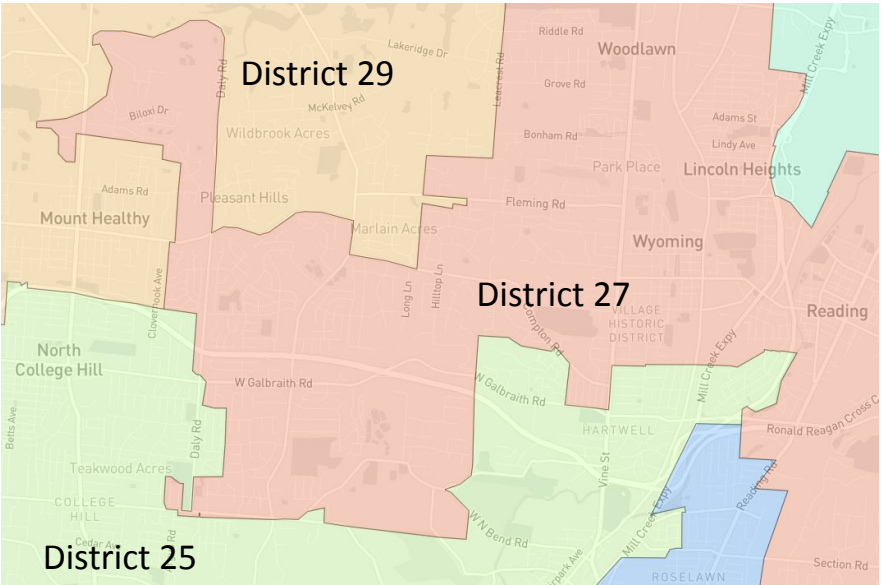
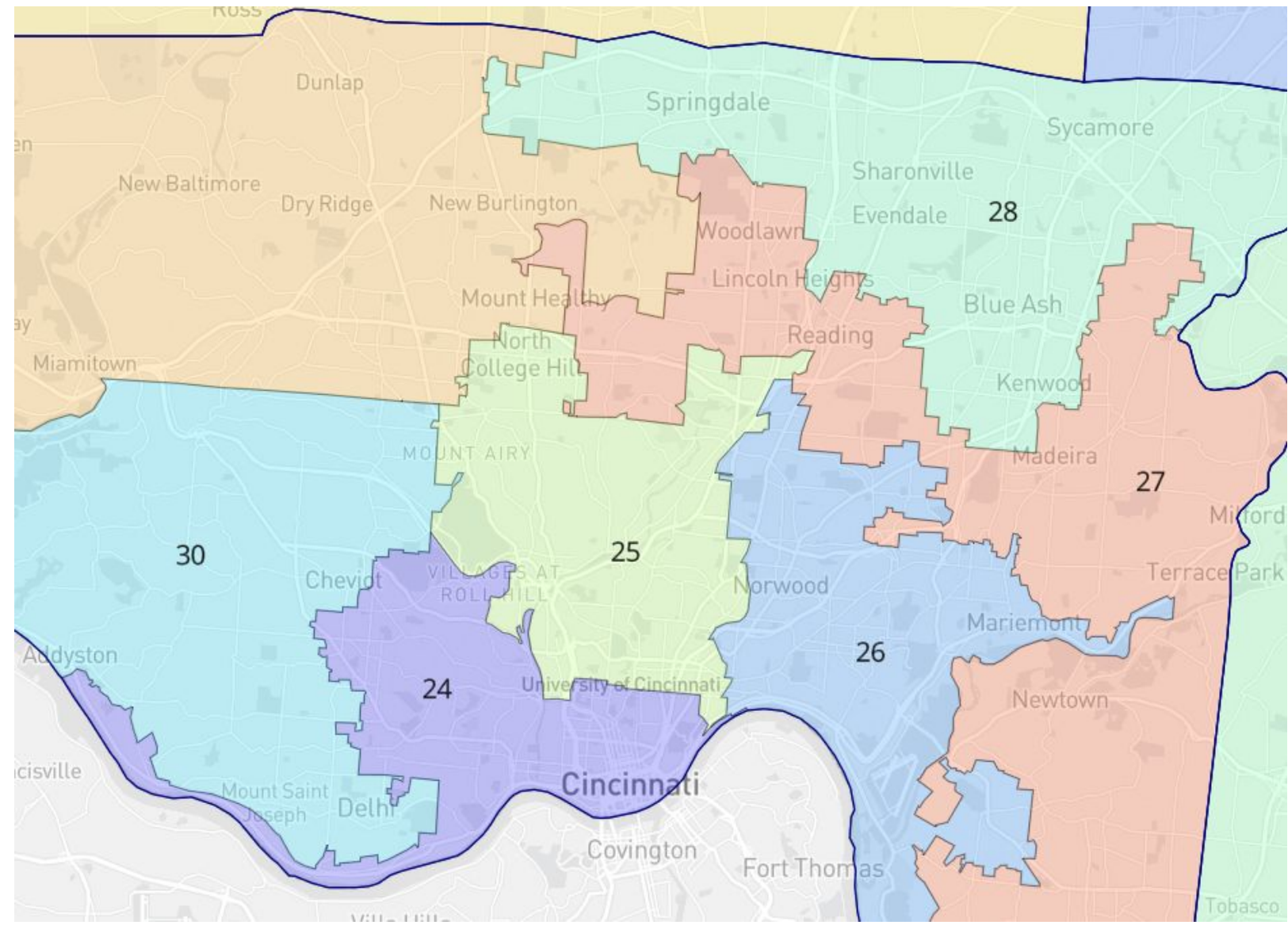


**Northeast
Ohio**

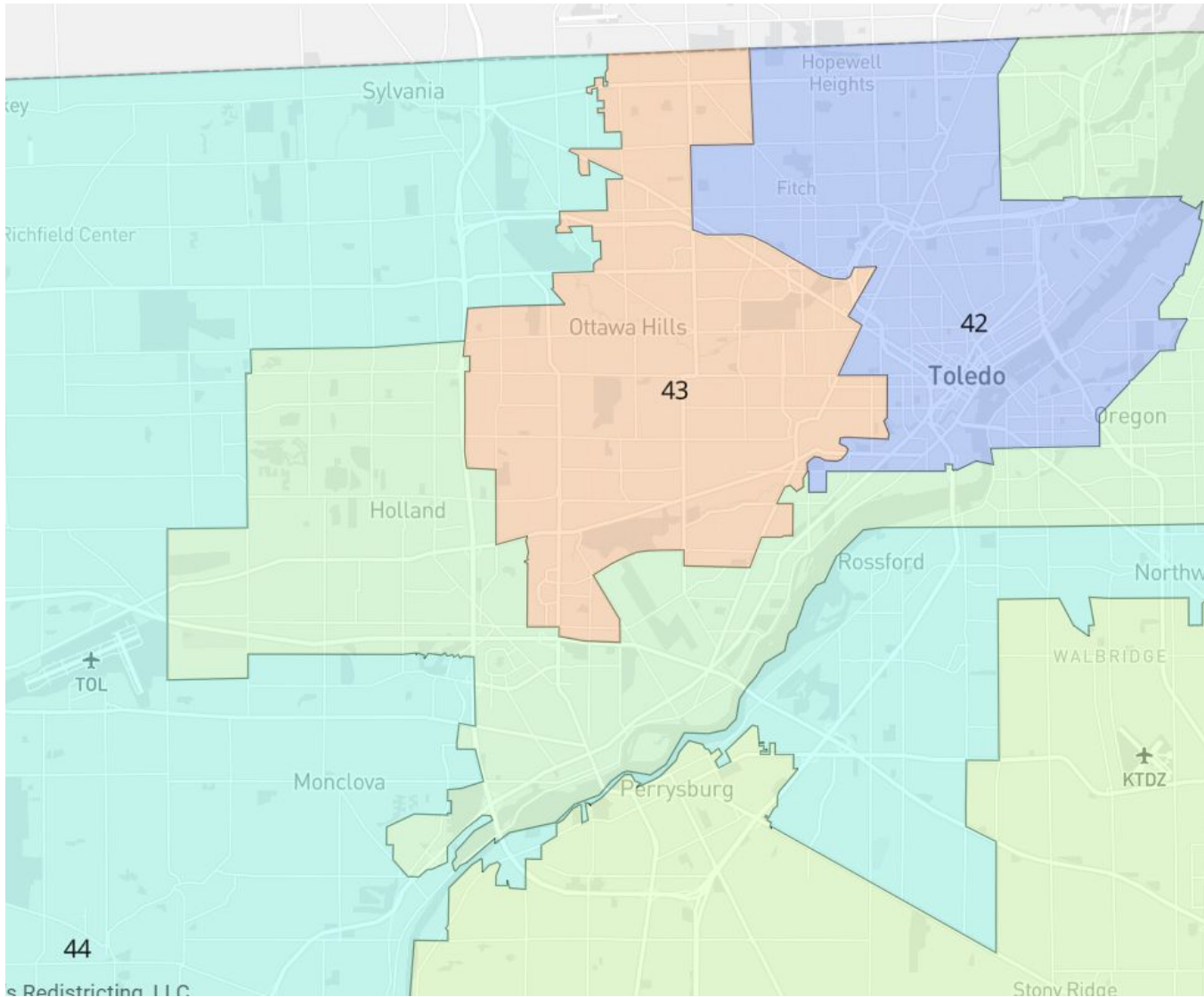


Franklin County





Hamilton County



Lucas County

