

**REDISTRICTING PUBLIC COMMENTS
PUNDERSON STATE PARK
SEPT 25, 2023
NANCI SELF**

I. Good morning. Thank you, Commissioners, for being here. Thank you to our Punderson Park personnel. Thank you, State Troopers; your presence is appreciated. I also appreciate that you encouraged us to come to our beautiful Punderson State Park.

My name is Nanci Self. I live in Summit County. I have recently retired after over 50 years in various community-service work, most recently being 18 years as Director of a non-profit creating affordable housing, called Nazareth Housing.

II. I am a member of a small group--- people who chose to return to Ohio. I grew up here, and am a proud graduate of Akron Public Schools. I intentionally left Ohio, moved out west and built a rich and fulfilling life of community service and chosen family. I put down roots via my churches and post-secondary education. I married a Californian. I earned my under-graduate degree from an Ohio school with a west coast satellite campus. Yet I returned to Ohio some 25 years ago. My life is again rich, for all the same reasons – fulfilling work, family, church and community.

But I struggle mightily to remain in Ohio because of our, your, my state legislature. I truly regret having to tell you that you, as a group, are the most debilitating, confused, tone-deaf state legislature. You surely noticed that this is the most corrupt state legislature in known state history. Many of you voted along with Larry Householder without even blinking. It is clear to anyone observing today that your plan is to gain/retain/gain more power. The obvious side effect will be to drive OUT fair minded people. Is that really something for which you want to be responsible?

It is time for you to let go and let us. To remember it is your job to implement the VOTER'S WILL.

III. I am extremely worried about your blatant disregard for the rule of law. As evidenced by you-all just deciding NOT to follow the Ohio Supreme Court's FIVE rulings and the federal bench additional TWO rulings, telling you to fix the problems with your district maps.

How did you get so anti-authority?

What would you think if your children disobeyed you in the same way?

Equally confounding and disgusting is your brazen disregard of the VOTERS who have addressed this problem five times already.

I am not going to use my time or yours discussing the Criteria for State Legislative Maps. You know them. And you know THEY HAVE NOT BEEN MET.

Clearly you, as a body, no longer want to play the game for which you signed up. It is time for you to step back and help the game with a re-design.

IV. I want you each to become full-throated supporters of the **15-Member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission** that is currently being proposed. This amendment, when it meets the requirements of the Secretary of State's office, will be on the ballot next November, 2024.

It is sponsored by Citizens Not Politicians. It should be obvious by now that politicians have too many other concerns, very often valid and sometimes self-serving, to give redistricting the kind of attention it requires.

Ohio voters have been proposing redistricting initiatives since 1981. Measures were defeated in 1981, 2002 and 2012. The commission on which you now sit was created when the **Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment** was passed in 2015. In May 2018 we passed the **Congressional Redistricting Procedures Amendment**. We all know how this has developed. Maps so unfair they landed in court. FIVE Ohio Supreme Court rulings ignored.

I want you each to act as though you have free will. I dare you to act, individually, to ensure that the **15 Member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission** is passed by an overwhelming bipartisan effort.

We, the voters who put you in office, need you to implement the will of your wider constituencies. ALL of your neighbors, friends, fellow citizens, church members, family and children. It is time for you to step back and assist us in creating the fairly drawn district maps that are our constitutional right.

If you fear the consequences of taking your thumb off the scale, you need to take that up with your God. As your fellow citizen, I chose to give you the benefit of doubt that you are not all simply power-hungry or naive. That you have many torn loyalties and often honest intentions.

The beauty of the upcoming **15-Member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission** is in its design -- an open, independent and transparent process.

Sunshine, and well-placed faith in one another, are God's best tonics. Ohio is in desperate need of a good tonic. Please do your part to support the **Citizens Not Politicians** efforts. It is time.