

Jeremy Wald

PLAN 1: ADVOCATING FOR THE INCLUSION OF SEVEN HILLS IN SD 24

Good morning members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. My Name is Jeremy Wald, and I am a resident from Parma, Ohio. The following remarks pertain to my first proposal, and advocates to include Seven Hills in SD 24.

- 1) I have heard the Commission is trying to avoid pairing incumbent members in a single district. Notwithstanding this principle (which is not legally required), I would ask this body to consider one exception: for the City of Seven Hills and their rep. Richard D'Aquila.
- 2) As HD 14 and HD 19 include incumbents, a completely different district was drawn for Rep D'Aquila into another of these districts. This district is nothing like the one this rep was currently elected from.
- 3) Seven Hills is in the center of Cuyahoga County. It has traditionally been found in SD 24. But it appears that to avoid pairing Representative D'Aquila with another House member, the House District containing Seven Hills (HD 15) has been paired with Cleveland—which, in turn, placed Seven Hills outside SD-24 (because of the manner in which House Districts are nested inside Senate Districts).
- 4) The result of this unusual pairing of Seven Hills is to sever it from SD-24 and from the City of Parma (which is now in SD 24), even though Seven Hills shares a school district and municipal Court with Parma. I know that grouping communities with common interest and relationships is a consideration for this body. As such- the current configuration of SD 24 and HD 15 does not honor those considerations and serves as a Democratic gerrymander.
- 5) As a resident of Parma, I know how important the relationship is between Parma and Seven Hills. Having a shared representative for advocacy on school board or other common issues is important.
- 6) As for the current representative, he was elected essentially unopposed on the ballot. The Supreme Court had struck down map 2 and the filing deadline was not reopened for map 3. A candidate who filed under map 2 was drawn out of map 3. As a result, Rep. D'Aquila was the only candidate on the ballot for this race.
- 7) Given the unique circumstances of the 2022 election cycle and the factors showing the strong community connections with Parma and Seven Hills, I would propose inclusion of Seven Hills into SD 24. I have uploaded this proposal to your website.
- 8) The resulting change creates a more compact district and again groups communities with shared interests.
- 9) Please consider the unique circumstances in this case when considering this proposal.

[This concludes my remarks on my first plan advocating for the inclusion of Seven Hills in SD 24.]

[Thank you very much for your time.]

Jeremy Wald

[Good morning once again, members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. For the record, my name is Jeremy Wald, and I am a resident of Parma, Ohio]

[The following remarks pertain to my second proposal, and advocates for make minute changes to HD 16 and HD 17.]

PROPOSAL 2: CHANGES TO HD 16 and HD 17

- 1) This proposal is a modest one, affecting a few House Districts in southwest Cuyahoga County within SD-24. Specifically, this proposal would change the boundaries within HD 16 and HD 17:
 - a. HD 17: Strongsville, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Twp, Berea, Brook Park, Middleburg Hts. And Cleveland 16-E.
 - b. HD 16: N. Olmsted, Westlake, Bay, Rocky River, Fairview Park, and Cleveland 17-C, 17-D
 - c. To balance population after making these changes, you would need to add just three precincts to HD 13: Cleveland 16-C, 17-S, 17-A
 - d. This would mean that HD 17 is now 49.5/48.1 Republican as measured by Dave's Redistricting, which is a fair district that both Republicans and Democrats have a reasonable chance to win.
- 2) From a political perspective, this change is vital because under the proposed plan, despite Cuyahoga County having among the largest groups of Republicans in the state, there would not be *one* Republican-leaning contained district in the county. Every single contained district would instead be drawn for Democrats. Thus, despite Governor DeWine getting 43% of the Cuyahoga County Vote and Senator Vance getting 32% of the Cuyahoga County vote, there are no Republican favored districts in the county. Look, I understand that Democrats say they are entitled to the number of General Assembly seats proportional to their share of the statewide vote. But Democrats mostly live in a few places in Ohio, and it's unfair to gerrymander the Cuyahoga County districts all for Democrats just because there aren't enough Democrats in the rest of the state for "proportional representation".
- 3) But this proposal does more than create more politically fair districts in Cuyahoga County. It also creates districts that are more compact and unites communities with shared relationships and economies.
- 4) The proposed changes in HD 17 for example, contain the cities in the Berea municipal school district and all of the cities in the Berea municipal Court district.
- 5) Similarly, for HD 16, my proposed changes contain cities that are in the Rocky River Municipal Court and the current Cuyahoga County Council district.
- 6) These seats are similar in configuration to the 2010 map- districts that have already been found to be Constitutional.
- 7) In sum, I ask for your consideration for this very fair and balanced Amendment. This amendment honors your requirements on incumbency and not splitting cities. I have uploaded this proposed change to your website.

[This concludes my remarks on my second proposal. I'd like to respectfully thank you for your time, and thank you for the tireless work you have, and continue to do, throughout the redistricting process.]







