

Co-Chairs and the members of the Redistricting Commission

My name is Julia Cattaneo, I live in Columbus and can be listed as an interested party. I have attended, testified, or watched most of the redistricting meetings. Frustration and anger are feelings I have shared with those who have disregarded the voices of Ohio citizens, our Ohio constitution, and our courts. Today I hope to do better.

First, to save time, I would like to suggest you review Catherine Turcer's testimony from Sept. 22, 2023. Her testimony sums up what this process has gone through, the outcomes, and offers many helping options. The most important point for me in Ms. Turcer's testimony was that we have an opportunity here for a good start. This implies there is hope that this commission wants to do things differently this time, and really work toward fair maps with lots of transparency and working with citizens. Follow and work the process.

I do not have comments on changing this or that on the maps as stated/testified by others; there are options available to you. It is your choice as to how this process proceeds. Paraphrasing Ms. Turcer again:

Manipulation of district lines is the manipulation of elections, is the manipulation of public policy.

This brought me to why would this be done by individuals who have taken an oath to serve Ohians. I've heard they are power-hungry. What I see is a number of members of our Ohio government who are afraid. These members have extreme views not shared by the majority of Ohio voters (and other legislators). They seem to believe that Ohioans can be confused, gaslighted, and misled to follow these extreme individuals to take away their voices.

I would guess at this point, after the August special elections proved otherwise, that fear has increased. I am here to say fear brings fear and we see the Ohio you are creating. Your fear drives your efforts to create illegal unfair district maps. I am sorry for your fear. I would not want to be in your shoes. I ask that you please stop spinning fear, stop the partisan, and be true to your oath and democracy. This can be a good starting point, it is your choice, will it be fear, or will it be fair maps?

Thank you,
Julia Cattaneo
43235
jeweljcott@gmail.com