

My name is Gary Gale and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Stark County Democratic Party concerning the proposed legislative map for the 3 Districts entirely within our county and offer an alternative that keeps people of the same economic circumstances and race together.

In Stark County the map being offered is essentially the same as the one that was used in 2022. One of the results of that map is that for the first time in 32 years Ohio's 8th largest county does not have a Democratic legislator and for the first time in 6 years not a Black legislator.

We are not asking you to do anything radical; we are instead presenting a map that is essentially the same as the map that was in effect from 2012 to 2020. In that map our urban working class populations were in one district; our more affluent populations were in a second and our more agrarian populations were in a third. We would like to return to a map that gives everyone a voice, and assures that everyone's needs are addressed.

In the current proposal our largest city, Canton, is put in with wealthy Jackson Township. Based on the 2020 census data Canton has a Median Household Income of \$32,735; a Median Home Value of \$73,300; is 24.3% Black; and has a poverty rate of 30.6%

Our wealthiest body politic, Jackson Township, has a Median Household Income is \$85,053 (2.6 times that of Canton); a Median Home Value of \$224,200 (3 times that of Canton), and is only between 4 and 5% Black. I could find no data on poverty in Jackson Township.

There clearly is no community of interest between Jackson Township and Canton. We know that the poorest among us are also those who need help from government the most.

The Stark County community that is most like Canton is our second largest city- Massillon. Massillon has the second largest Black percentage in Stark County at 7.9%, its Median Home Value is \$110,000; Median Household Income is \$50,239; and its Poverty Rate is 14.5%.

Our proposed Canton-Massillon District -- in Blue in the attached map-- would according to Dave's Redistricting be 53.9% Democratic and 43.3% Republican.

The Stark County community that is most like Jackson Township is North Canton where the population is 91% White, 2.41% Asian and 2.35% Black. The Median Home Value in North Canton is \$160,100 and the Median Household Income is \$60,473. The reported Poverty Rate is 8%.

Our proposed Jackson Township-North Canton District—in Green in the attached map-- would according to Dave's Redistricting be 40.1% Democratic and 57.7% Republican.

The Eastern portion of Stark County including Louisville, Alliance, East Canton and a number of smaller communities as well as the more rural part of the County are more conservative and less diverse.

Our proposed Louisville-Alliance-East Canton District—in Yellow in the attached map-- would according to Dave's Redistricting be 34.9% Democratic and 62.7% Republican.

I will be happy to try and answer any questions you might have.

PROPOSED STARK COUNTY LEGISLATIVE MAP

