

To: Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission

Re: Testimony regarding proposed state maps

Please accept my written testimony below regarding the new proposed election maps.

I would have liked to testify in person but I am an immunocompromised person who is still at great risk of contracting covid and of having severe illness or death. Consequently I do not participate in any crowded events where covid precautions are not being followed.

The “working maps” adopted by the GOP members of the ORC are unconstitutional and must be rejected.

The maps are unconstitutional because:

- 1) they were not developed transparently as required by the Constitution and as directed by the Ohio Supreme Court. The only map which has been transparently developed is the one developed by the consultants previously hired by ORC (Johnson and McDonald)
- 2) it unduly favors the GOP instead of reflecting the previous voting percentages of the past decade. Again the map developed by Johnson and McDonald does correctly reflect the previous voting patterns.
- 3) it does not meet the compactness requirements of the Constitution. There are many odd shaped districts which are unduly elongated or wrapped around other districts. This is clear indication of unconstitutional gerrymandering.
- 4) the “competitive districts” are not balanced between GOP leaning and Dem leaning as identified in previous maps by the Ohio Supreme Court.

The “corrected” Johnson and McDonald maps as submitted by Bria Bennett meets the requirements of the Ohio Constitution and must be adopted.

Unfortunately based upon the prior meetings of the ORC, I have zero confidence that my remarks will be read much less considered at least by the GOP members. As you recall, Senate President Huffman commented “We can do anything we want.” And that is exactly what happened.

Besides my specific remarks regarding the maps above, I want to officially register my complete disgust with the GOP members of the ORC.

First I want to tell you that I am a registered GOP voter. Nonetheless I do not support illegal tactics to gain power. I support democracy - not autocracy. I support policies based on their merits - not on party. I support GOP policies when they make sense. I support Democratic or independent policies when they make sense.

The GOP members of the ORC previously knowingly and consciously:

- violated the Ohio Constitution
- violated the orders of the Ohio Supreme Court
- Ignored the will of a 70+% bipartisan majority of Ohioans who voted to end gerrymandering
- Lied to voters about not being able to produce Constitutional maps
- Manipulated schedules to push through unconstitutional maps

I also can't help but note that current and former ORC members Huffman, Faber, and LaRose helped draft and approved the original gerrymandering amendment which was subsequently enacted by voters. Did you intentionally draft language which you could exploit to continue gerrymandering?

The GOP has lost all credibility. Nothing the GOP says today can be believed.

- the rationale for the redistricting maps was a lie
- The artificial deadlines for maps were and are a lie
- The procedures and rationale for Issue 1 was a lie - actually several lies since it kept changing.

This registered GOP voter will NOT BE SUPPORTING ANY GOP candidates if you again force through illegal maps.