

Lucas County Unofficial Redistricting Hearing Participant Feedback

September 25, 2023

Doris Greer

How do we get poundcake out of marbles?

We are working off of something that was unconstitutional in the first place. How do we undo this? You are representing people that you don't really know because you end up not even really living in the community you represent. You don't know when their trash is picked up because the people you are representing are not your community. Basically, how are you supposed to represent people who are so far from each other and have conflicting interests? We are aware that we have been given a program of deception. You don't have to have a Ph.D. to figure that out, but we, as citizens, are coming in late in the game here, and it is difficult for us to see how we can even make a difference.

Bud Crosby

I would like you to remind your colleagues tomorrow that the voters of Ohio are watching. We can see that they are missing the point of their positions. They represent *us*, the citizens of the state, but they don't seem to be acting like it. Remind them not to drag their heels on semantics to manipulate what we are saying. Northwest Ohio has oftentimes been forgotten in Columbus. They need to understand that Ohio citizens see what they are doing, despite their attempts to minimize our opportunities to speak our thoughts.

Colin Flanagan

Look, we all know that these maps are really stupidly drawn. For example, East Toledo here has been split in half, and if any place in the city needs help, it's there. How can they advocate for themselves and get the help they need if they are divided up and the community is disjointed?

They may have drawn three "Democrat" districts in Lucas County, but they have combined communities that don't make sense together. The result will inevitably be that our representatives aren't going to represent the *whole* district; they are going to represent where *they* live within it.

Debbie Dalke

These districts aren't even up to the constitutional criteria. If you have voters in these very disparate districts, what issues are they going to have in common? How are all of them being effectively represented in practice? They won't be.

My "favorite" part about these maps is these two tiny bites taken from Huron County. What is the logic? If you must split the county, at least do it in a sensible way. We simply can't disjoint the communities because it dilutes their power. We must preserve communities of interest, so we can advocate more effectively. When there are communities that depend on each other, why are we splitting them up? They have taken *ages* to produce these maps, only to give us a few days to evaluate them. And when we do get them, they are low resolution. How are we even supposed to provide meaningful feedback to the commission when we aren't given a viable opportunity to do so?

Debra Sue Pearson

We know full well these Democrat folks in Toledo don't always go out and vote. Our neighborhoods don't get funding and assistance. They think many of us aren't paying attention. They are not looking at the details beyond the numbers on paper. A 70% democratic population does not mean that 70% of people will come out and vote. Don't you think it's interesting that everything is split? Why match us up against each other? You cannot only give attention to our area if we vote for you, you need to give us attention because it is your job.

Erin Czerniak

People don't even know who they are voting for, and then when things change, such as these maps, even more confusion is compounded. These maps and this process are not making anything clearer, they are making this more confusing; another deliberate barrier to us as citizens to participate in our state government.

Unidentified gentleman

When I voted for the Redistricting Commission reform in 2015, I was voting for what I thought would be a non-partisan commission. The commission, intentionally separate from the legislature, should be there to make our maps *fair*. The problem I see in the legislature controlled by the Ohio GOP is that they simply don't care about the law that is telling them that what they are doing is unconstitutional, because no one is holding them accountable. If we have a commission that works the way it's supposed to, the way it was intended to when I supported it in the past, we would be in

good shape, but it continues to be hijacked by people who don't care about the community.

When we create districts that are 70% one way or another, no one is holding their representative accountable, you are worried about being primaried, not worried about representing the people they work for.

GENERAL TAKEAWAYS

Even citizens trying to stay actively informed and involved, like those who showed up and participated last night, have expressed frustration and confusion about the lack of information surrounding this process. This process is confusing and deliberately not accessible to many Ohioans who have arguably the biggest vested interest in how we draw these districts, and they are concerned and they do care. If Ohioans don't even understand the process, how can we expect them to join in the conversation? How are we supposed to, in good conscience, say that these maps have had thorough consideration when it has been less than a week since these maps have even been made public?

Beyond just meeting the numbers, statistical indexes, and baseline requirements, we really do need to consider the communities we are drawing lines through.