Fanchon Page

Witness Statement to be read

OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

I am a lifelong resident of Ohio. My family migrated from Arkansas in the late 1960's. My family and I reside on the Eastside and attended and graduated from a public school. As a college graduate and nonprofit business owner; I've obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Franklin University and a Master's in human resources from Capella University. My entire family has degrees, a few of us hold medical licenses. Our circle of friends mirrors these same demographics. We are African American, and we vote as Democrats.

We are proud to live in the State of Ohio. However, we realize that Ohio does not truly represent the entire voter population that reflect our districts. This is a problem because we live day to day with sirens, police cars, and scares of gun violence in the places that we live, eat, and thrive. So, when we vote we are expecting our voices to be heard when it comes to basic things like, gun violence, reproduction, and the welfare/safety for our neighbors.

Unfortunately, the maps will have you believe that the rural areas reflect many people living in Ohio. This does not justify or represent the values of those living in the inner city districts whose population supersedes. In the last 5 elections record number turnout in the areas of: Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, and Toledo should have led to different election results but because of redistricting our voices were not heard. Our community is suffering because of the maps as it stands today.

The districts should reflect every voter so that their voices are heard at the ballot box. This is very important and key to improving the inner-city challenges that we face every day. The issues, values morals and principles known in the rural areas don't align with the rest of the population who are affected the most. For those living in rural Ohio they have a false sense of what the world around them truly is. Their issues do not consist of the threats of a stray bullets, fear of not being able to feed their family, having their cars stolen from their yard, having your welfare/ food stamps cut off because you make too much money. Or not being able to afford childcare because you don't make enough money to cover those expenses, so you don't work. Not being able to afford or qualify for healthcare benefits because you can't afford to work because you don't have childcare. Many in our communities are single families trying to make ends meet. Since 2016, the overall welfare qualifications in Ohio have been reduced or limited. Thus, forcing families to result in unthinkable crimes.

The truth is this, those in charge of mapping out Ohio, know fully this state is Blue. So, to control the narrative, they misrepresent the districts. Thus, giving an unfair advantage to those living inner-city leaning to those underpopulated areas. The 2008 and 2012 elections are testimony that when Democrats show up in Ohio: Ohio votes for a Democrat. With the 2024 election in view, this is a way for the Republican party to secure a win for Donald Trump. This is a blatant block to keep voices like mine from changing the outcome of future elections in Ohio. In all fairness this should matter- the map as set forth by the Ohio Supreme Court should properly reflect the true population.