

To the esteemed members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

My name is Megan Smith. I live in North Canton, OH House district 48 represented by Scott Oelslager, OH Senate district 29 represented by Kirk Schuring, and OH Congressional district 16 represented by Anthony Gonzalez. As a person impacted by the map drawing in 2011, I feel separated from my community, especially in as it relates to my congressional and house districts.

I've been a life-long Ohio resident and have lived most of my life in Stark County. I grew up in Canton, OH, attended high school in Magnolia while living in Waynesburg, I went to college in North Canton and after securing employment in Massillon, decided to raise my family back in North Canton.

My mother lives 10 minutes from me in Plain Township, but somehow our U.S. Congressional representatives are different. My family attends church in downtown Canton, which has different representation than we do in both the Congressional and State House. We buy vegetables from a local farm in East Sparta, which also has different representation than we do. Yet these areas are all an integral part of our lives. They are our neighbors. We care about the political and social issues impacting these communities. But with the current state of the legislative maps, we are disconnected from these communities that are so important to us.

Please keep Stark County together to create a better, stronger Ohio. Please keep the redistricting process fair, transparent, non-discriminatory and politically impartial.

Thank you for your time and attention today. And good luck!