

## **Fair Districts Testimony from Juliet Sweany, 8/27/2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Juliet Sweany. I vote in Ohio House District 13 and Ohio Senate District 23 in Lakewood.

Ohio voters of all political persuasions overwhelmingly supported redistricting reforms in 2015 and again in 2018. Both reform efforts won in all 88 Ohio counties and by more than 70% of the vote.

I was among that >70% of voters because our state needs legislative districts that are more rational and that keep municipalities and communities unified as much as possible.

My legislative districts at the state and federal levels are consistently noncompetitive in general elections. The real races, if there are any, are in the primaries. This serves to intensify the destructive trends of hyperpartisanship and extremism that are poisoning our state and our nation. It leaves many, many voters -- especially those with moderate, common-sense views -- without true representation of their views and concerns.

These noncompetitive districts are the result of decades of gerrymandering by both parties. The gerrymandering has gotten worse in recent years. It isn't good for democracy or for solving citizens' real problems when politicians of any party manipulate voting maps to keep themselves or their party in power.

I call on you to heed the unmistakable demand of Ohio voters in 2015 and 2018 to end gerrymandering now and create a democracy where everyone feels they have meaningful voting choices. I urge you to keep Ohio's redistricting fair, transparent, nondiscriminatory, and politically impartial. I call on you to ensure that all Ohioans' voices are included in this process. And I need you to keep my community and the vast majority of Ohio communities whole and contiguous when creating districts.

Our state needs maps that serve voters and communities, not the political interests of parties or candidates.

Sincerely,  
Juliet Sweany  
15305 Lanning Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107