

# WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR 8/23/21 Redistricting Comm. Cleveland STATE UNIVERSITY

My name is Ruth Gillett. I am a resident of the City of Lakewood which is a western suburb of Cuyahoga County. Currently Lakewood is in the 9th Congressional District, the 13th Ohio House District, and the 23rd Ohio Senate District. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Ohio Redistricting Commission about the redistricting process and the importance of assuring that this is done fairly and openly.

I would like to endorse 4 suggestions to achieve these objectives. In part I have paraphrased ideas that came from students in a class taught by Professor Dennis Turner this past winter at the University of Dayton Osher Lifelong Learning program.

1. **Develop a new timeline for completing the redistricting process and petition the Ohio Supreme Court for approval.** Because of the delayed release of the 2020 census data and the failure of state leadership to begin Ohio's process earlier, it is impossible for Ohio to meet the deadlines written into the redistricting legislation. Redistricting is too important and will be with us for a decade - let's try to do a good job.
2. **Establish a non-partisan committee that does not include elected persons/politicians to develop mandatory guidelines for drawing district boundaries. Use a computer program based on these guidelines to generate an initial map for public comment.**
3. **Establish a non-partisan committee that does not include elected persons/politicians to review the computer generated map.**
4. **Continue providing statewide, public comment opportunities to review and revise the proposed map until there is general, public consensus - say, 70% approval rating per the percentage of state voters who approved redistricting reform in 2015 and 2018.**

In addition to these specific suggestions, I have participated in a "map making" process coordinated through the League of Women Voters and Fair Districts Ohio. The map our group developed for Lakewood has been submitted to the Commission through the required portal.

Thank you again for this opportunity!

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