



The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

**Ohio Redistricting Commission
Tuesday, August 24, 2021- Dayton
Testimony of OEA President Scott DiMauro**

Co-Chairs Cupp and Sykes and distinguished members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

My name is Scott DiMauro. I am a high school social studies teacher from Worthington. It is also my honor to serve as the President of the Ohio Education Association. On behalf of OEA and our 120,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

The work done by this Commission will have a large impact and a lasting effect. Since the last maps were drawn, Ohioans have twice voted to reform our redistricting process—for both Congressional and state legislative districts. OEA was an early supporter of both measures.

Among the legislative policies and resolutions adopted by our members is a continuing theme of democracy. OEA believes that voters should have access to the polls, and that citizen participation should be encouraged. It's what we teach our students and it's central to our character as a nation.

Partisan gerrymandering subverts our democracy. It's designed to devalue the voice of the voters—to rig the game. Drawing districts to favor one party over another is wrong. It leads to less competition and a less responsive government. It leads to more polarization and less cooperation among our elected officials.

OEA is committed to fair maps because we know a more inclusive democracy means better decisions for students, educators and communities. As educators, we serve students from all backgrounds. Lawmakers who are responsive to the voters are essential in meeting student needs.

We've seen the impact on school funding. Since 1981, Ohio Department of Education data show that the more competitive balance in the legislature, less of the cost of education has been shouldered by local property taxpayers. Greater disparities in the balance of power in the legislature have correlated with a greater funding burden being placed on the backs of local property taxpayers.

The strong support of voters on the redistricting issue is clear. It resulted in a change to the state constitution. This body is a product of that change. Now it's up to this body to live up to the letter and the spirit of the law. We need a transparent process that results in fair districts.

Through this redistricting process Ohio has a chance to serve as an example to the country about how to do this. I call on you to put partisanship aside and listen to the will of the people. Through working together and compromise you can rise to the occasion and produce fair, representative districts.



The delay in census data has made your work harder and timelines tighter. However, this cannot be used as an excuse. What the voters of Ohio have every right to expect and demand is a bipartisan agreement that results in 10 year legislative districts. Anything less would be a failure of leadership.

Thank you for your time and attention. I'm happy to answer questions at this time.