

Matthew Krug written testimony for the 24 Aug 2021 Dayton, OH hearing of the Redistricting Commission

Good morning, and thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Matthew Krug. I vote in the OH-41st house district, the OH-6th Senate district, and the 10th US congressional district. My home is in Oakwood, an inner-ring Dayton suburb that shares a border with Dayton and Kettering. I am writing to you today to express my support for a fair redistricting process.

A map with gerrymandered boundaries ***directly*** harms all Ohio constituents. Districts whose boundaries are chosen to optimize party advantage or incumbent safety result in inefficient voter representation, the deprivation of true voter choice in any meaningful sense of the word, and increasingly radical politicians who respond to the most extreme elements of each party's base. This results in a government incapable of providing services and voice to its citizens - a root cause of citizen disaffection with their government. Gerrymandering, therefore, badly erodes a critical cornerstone of our democratic system, which is in dire disrepair currently. I urge you to consider the following important points about **fair districts**:

Fundamental fairness. Statewide elections in Ohio tend to have margins of victory of 10% or less between the candidates put forth by the two parties. However, our two house chambers are highly skewed: 64R-35D in the House - a 29% margin, and 25R-8D in the Senate - a 68% margin. These margins were engineered by unfairly gerrymandered district boundaries. If there is any meaning and value whatsoever to the one person one vote principle at the core of the ideal of American Democracy, then Ohio is badly failing to provide its citizens with a fair democratic system. This body has the power to ensure that this is corrected.

Representative advocacy. I follow the local news closely, and it is very clear to me that my Ohio state legislators are not representing my interests on matters of great importance to me, including those of public safety (firearm regulations, public health measures) and investments of my tax dollars (transportation, energy infrastructure regulations). I am a member of a team who has been engaged closely with citizens across the Dayton metro area by mapping communities of interest for the last six months with the League of Women Voters. I know from that experience that many people feel similarly to me, both in my community in Oakwood and in the broader south-west Ohio region generally. This is a **direct harm** due to gerrymandering, and members of this body have a responsibility to remedy this for their fellow citizens.

Ohio voters demanded it, directly. We passed two constitutional amendments to address our redistricting problem. Failing to abide **in both letter and spirit** by those amendments would be a grave violation of the will of the voters. Ohioans rejected gerrymandering decisively and repeatedly over multiple election cycles.

I know you agree with me that representative democracy is the best means we have of realizing the will of the people. Guaranteeing fair districts, therefore, is your duty to the citizens of Ohio.

I thank you for your time and attention,

Matthew Krug; 404 Orchard Drive; Oakwood, OH 45419
matthewkrug6@gmail.com; 614.726.2851