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Ohio Redistricting Commission
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(Tuesday Aug 24, 2021) Ohio is a gerrymandered state, and the voters asked for change in 2015 and 2018. They placed that responsibility in the hands of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. For 20 years, the gerrymandered Ohio legislature defied the direction of the Ohio Supreme Court and refused to meet their constitutional obligation for equitable school funding in this state. Only in the most recent budget, has a real effort been made. I'm hoping this Ohio Redistricting Commission will build on that effort, but if history is any guide, I must also be skeptical.

I live in Ohio House District 79, Clark County. My State Representative is Kyle Koehler. Representative Koehler was instrumental in Ohio vacating the longstanding Castle Doctrine, and instituting "Stand Your Ground" language into law. He did this even though the Clark County Commission paid a \$250,000 settlement to a news photographer shot on the street by a Clark County deputy. The deputy claimed the shooting was justified; he thought the camera and tripod were a "long gun" or "assault rifle". The deputy struck the photographer twice in the abdomen after firing across four lanes of traffic. Representative Koehler must know if a trained officer in his own district can't make this critical decision in an instant, how can a scared citizen?

The gerrymandered Ohio legislature has struck down longstanding public health authority granted to state and local medical professionals, and awarded that authority to itself, despite the Ohio constitution defining Ohio as a home rule state.

The examples go on, but perhaps the most perplexing example is the legalization of brass knuckles in Ohio. I've lived in Ohio my whole life. Exactly what problem are legal brass knuckles solving? And what Ohio citizens voices were calling for action on this subject? It is obvious that some voices in Ohio are louder than others and is a direct result of gerrymandering.

At one time, I was responsible for holding public meetings about proposed highway projects at local, state, and federal jurisdictions. We always had maps of the various alternatives to explain to the constituents the results of the feasibility study. This was necessary for the public to understand and visualize the pros and cons of each alternative. We made public announcements well in advance of our meetings, we held them in the evenings for working people to attend, and we made arrangements as best we could to promote attendance. Had I chosen to hold a meeting in the same manner as the Ohio Redistricting Commission meeting today.....from 9:30 AM to 12:30, on a workday, with little to no advance notice to the public, in person, during a pandemic.... I would have deservedly been fired. I can't tell you what the public would have done if I showed up without any maps.....

Respectfully,

Brad Lightle