

Written Testimony on Redistricting

8/24/2021 Hearing at Sinclair Community College

My main concern is that we have districts drawn that facilitate fair elections, and are not designed to allow one political party or elected official to remain in office by manipulating a district map with the purpose of gaining more votes.

I'm familiar with the gerrymandered "snake on the lake" in the Cleveland area. This district was drawn in my opinion to allow those in office, or one political party, to maintain control, not to facilitate fair representation.

Maps should be drawn taking into consideration "communities of interest," which means including the representative's office in that district, keeping neighborhoods together in the same district as much as possible, keeping key landmarks that are important to a district in that district's boundaries, and avoiding odd shaped districts that are drawn with the intent of maintaining or gaining political office.

I am retired, but am an active volunteer in my community. Prior to retirement I was a Physical Therapist Assistant in a local hospital in a disadvantaged area of the city. I've noticed increased corruption at the state level, and how that has eroded public confidence in elected officials. Gerrymandering increases the likelihood of corruption, and causes citizenry to tend to give up on voting, as they see voting as a useless endeavor when one political group makes our votes somewhat meaningless.

Please help bring confidence back into our democracy by creating fair district maps as required by law. Representative democracy is better served this way, and government can function more effectively for the benefit of the majority.

Thank you for considering my written testimony,

William E. Ross

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