

August 22, 2021

Greetings Commissioners:

My name is Dr. LaPearl Logan Winfrey. I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dayton Alumnae Chapter. Political awareness and involvement is one of the core programmatic thrusts of Delta Sigma Theta, so we thank you for this opportunity to address the very consequential matter of fair districts.

We believe the people should choose their representatives, not the elected officials choosing whom they will represent. The latter leads to extreme marginalization and an imbalance in power. Gerrymandering has happened under the control of both major political parties in the past and is not a practice that should be revisited under any circumstances. That is why Ohioans, in all 88 counties, voted, twice, to amend the state constitution to improve the process of drawing district lines, both for Ohio legislative districts and for US Congress.

Some years ago, the average majority of Ohioans probably did not know what gerrymandering was, let alone care much about the redistricting process. But now, your constituents are paying attention. We know that it is harder to draw a gerrymandered map—than to draw a fair map. This year citizens are taking part in a map-making competition sponsored by common Cause, the League of Women voters, and other advocates. The competition will produce fair maps drawn in accordance with the new redistricting rules. The legislature can no longer pretend that the maps they produce are the best or only possible options.

Bipartisan maps would be the best outcome for the people of Ohio, and, accordingly, that is our expectation and goal. The members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., represent more than 1000 chartered chapters worldwide. We are individually and collectively engaged in educating the community about this important process. Additionally, we are here to assist citizens across the State of Ohio in having their voices heard!

I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to hearing how you plan to accomplish fair maps.

Respectfully,

LaPearl Logan Winfrey, PhD

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Member, Ohio State Redistricting Cohort

Co-Chair Political Awareness and Involvement Committee

Dayton Alumnae Chapter

P. O. Box 2316

Dayton, OH 45401

dstdayton_alumnae@yahoo.com