

I am Jill Becker from Greene County, Ohio.

I am writing to advocate for new districts that allow Ohioans to be represented more accurately in Government. Our current map distorts our representation. We have a split of approximately 55% Republican voters and 45% Democratic voters, yet our representation at the state level shows 64% Republican congress people and 36% Democratic congress people. Ohio is represented in the US Congress by 75% Republicans and 25% Democrats.

How is this possible? It doesn't make any sense except for gerrymandering.

You are tasked with righting this wrong AND the majority of you are Republicans. For you each personally, there is a built-in incentive to maintain this imbalance and keep being elected. But the people of Ohio have voted twice to correct our gerrymandered districts, so your job here has been mandated by the voters. Because you are mostly Republicans, and because of the set-up, if the Democrats do not agree with what you come up with, you will have what you want for four more important years. This arrangement, plus the lopsided nature of your makeup, 5 Republicans, 2 Democrats, has created an atmosphere of **distrust** among 45% of our state.

It is most important that you use a process that is inclusive of different points of view and is open to the public to see and participate in. The announcement of the public hearings was last minute, scheduled at times impossible for working people to attend, in some places where parking is almost impossible and with none scheduled in OUR CAPITOL, Columbus. I honestly think that clearly demonstrates that we are not off to a good start.

Communities should be able to vote for what matters to them, to have a voice, without their districts being cut up to serve one political party over the other. If you want the support of both on your proposed new map, and to show your personal integrity, it is imperative you do this in an open, fair and honest way.