

I am representing myself:

Gerrymandering is one of the many political strategies that voters are not accustomed to or not fully understanding its role in the voting process. We vote and look for the best qualified candidate to succeed. However, we sometimes forget that change oftentimes comes as a result of power over right. The goal of any party is to remain in power and launch its goals in accordance with its political platform or ideology. The GOP in power does not want a contiguous format that might erode its power base and give an inequitable advantage to the other party. But the Commission is tasked with doing something more to accommodate the voters' concerns or be ridiculed or voted against in future elections. I heard two troubling concerns from the testimonies today during the hearing about legislators being deficient in their constitutional responsibility and the grouping of districts that are not contiguous that basically wreck what I thought I knew or felt about the political process or more definitively my voting responsibility.

First, I feel that the Commission might include a third Democratic legislator and remove a Republican legislator to level the playing field. The count of 4x3 is better than 5x2. This will not entirely please the voters, but it will show some movement in the right direction. If the Democrats were in power, then we would be hopefully bartering for consensus from the same form.

Last, it is unbelievable that the party in power would map an area to arbitrarily place a legislator in a district and repudiate the constituents' needs or concerns. Either the district is too large or the legislator is completely ignorant of the area, or the party intentionally forms a district that is far from being contiguous. This is what I heard and believe as an abuse of power where legislators are choosing voters and not voters choosing their legislator. This process leads the voters to believe that the legislator does not care about their needs and that the political process abuses their constitutional rights. Surely, a hired consultant or college student conducting an independent study of the area for a grade could research the county and provide valuable detailed information about the people and their concerns.

Gerrymandering is an integral member of our political system whether we like it or not. It sanctions or tries to sanction a continuous dominance over the output of another's ideology. As one public speaker said today, the process is simple but we have been living under the Shakespearean motif that fair is foul and foul is fair. We know that each party will continue to tweak the principles of the political system to suit its own needs and do its best to retain control by any means necessary. But I think the people today were seeking some movement in "another" direction to show that at least our political process gives some credence to our voting efforts to allow us to choose our legislators through your redistricting efforts of our state.