

Fair Districts Testimony from Glenn R. Campbell, 8/24/2021

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Glenn R. Campbell. I vote in Ohio House District 13 and Ohio Senate District 23 in Lakewood.

I voted for Ohio's redistricting reforms in both 2015 and 2018 because I want legislative districts that are more rational and that keep communities together instead of being drawn to serve the whims of parties and politicians.

My legislative districts at both the state and federal levels are essentially noncompetitive in general elections. That leaves me feeling that I have little choice and voice as a voter. And I know scores of Ohioans in various locations across the state who feel the same way about their districts.

I am a citizen who volunteers to get my neighbors to come out and vote in elections for Congress and the state legislature, and it is increasingly hard to do so because I hear them tell me these election results are forgone conclusions and that their vote won't really matter as a result. I particularly hear this from neighbors and acquaintances who are not affiliated with either of the two major political parties.

I have seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears how and why gerrymandering does not serve citizens and the common good. It is not good for our democracy when politicians of any party manipulate voting maps to keep themselves and/or their party in power.

I also demand fairly and rationally drawn maps for our state because gerrymandering has left too many communities divided between districts and without the centralized clout they deserve. A good example of this is the 9th congressional district in which I live. This ludicrously gerrymandered district has me grouped with many more people in far-away Toledo than in nearby communities like Cleveland, Fairview Park and Rocky River with whom I share many more economic and community interests. This is not right, and it is not in the interest of community cohesion.

I write this to remind you that Ohioans overwhelmingly want fair maps and that voters of all stripes supported the redistricting reforms of 2015 and 2018. We must end gerrymandering to create a democracy where everyone feels they have meaningful choices when they vote. Otherwise our state and our nation will slip even further into the cynicism, apathy and division that have weakened us in recent years.

I conclude by calling on you to:

- Keep Ohio's redistricting fair, transparent, nondiscriminatory, and politically impartial.
- Ensure that ALL Ohioans' voices are included in this process.
- Keep my community and the vast majority of Ohio communities whole and together when creating districts.

- Fulfill the spirit of the redistricting reforms placed into the Ohio constitution by guaranteeing a transparent, open, and nonpartisan process.
- Draw maps that serve voters and communities, not the political interests of parties or candidates.

Sincerely,
Glenn R. Campbell
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