

Testimony to redistricting commission

Hello Brothers and Sister, my name is Kashi Adhikari. I am a former refugee of Bhutan and former candidate for Ohio house district 22 for the house of representative. Democracy can only work when there is fairness and accountability in the government. We have seen the acute differences in the house and the senate about 70% of vote by republican and 30% by the democrats. Why is it happening that way? It is because there is not transparency in the process we do our community mapping, county mapping and district mapping. That is why I am in one district and my neighbor is in another district.

Gerrymandering is not only dividing on community, county and district but also isolating us in terms of our social structure, cultural vibrancy and economic prosperity. It is favoring one party over another. The expansion of the physical mapping will help ensure the incumbent win the forthcoming election even without doing much effort for his / her election. Only the contraction of physical mapping will help ensure the equal representation of minority communities, business, social marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities.

On the other hand, redistricting will help us exactly distribute the resources fairly so that park and recreation, hospitals and educational, sports and entertainment centers are accessed by the residents. We the people have voted in 2015 and 2018 with majority to recreate plan and proposed for changes that are not fair and credible. If the process is not democratic there will not be fair representation, which means failure of good governance. Even to have checks and balance in the political process we need to have equal number of members from both the major political parties so that redistricting commission is fully balanced and will not be manipulated by one party over another.

Finally, per the time and situation , and with the advancement in technology we need to preserve the likeness, pattern, culture and innovation of our neighbor and community members. So that they can grow together with interest and preserve unity in diversity for community representation.