

Hello, my name is David Helmick and I am a resident of Mahoning County. I was very pleased when the General Assembly Republicans unveiled their final map because for the first time ever, the entire Greater Youngstown area (Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties) was kept together in a single district without any splits at all. That district would have greatly benefitted my community because we are closely tied together economically and culturally. We also have unique problems that can be best addressed by having one Representative who can focus on our problems.

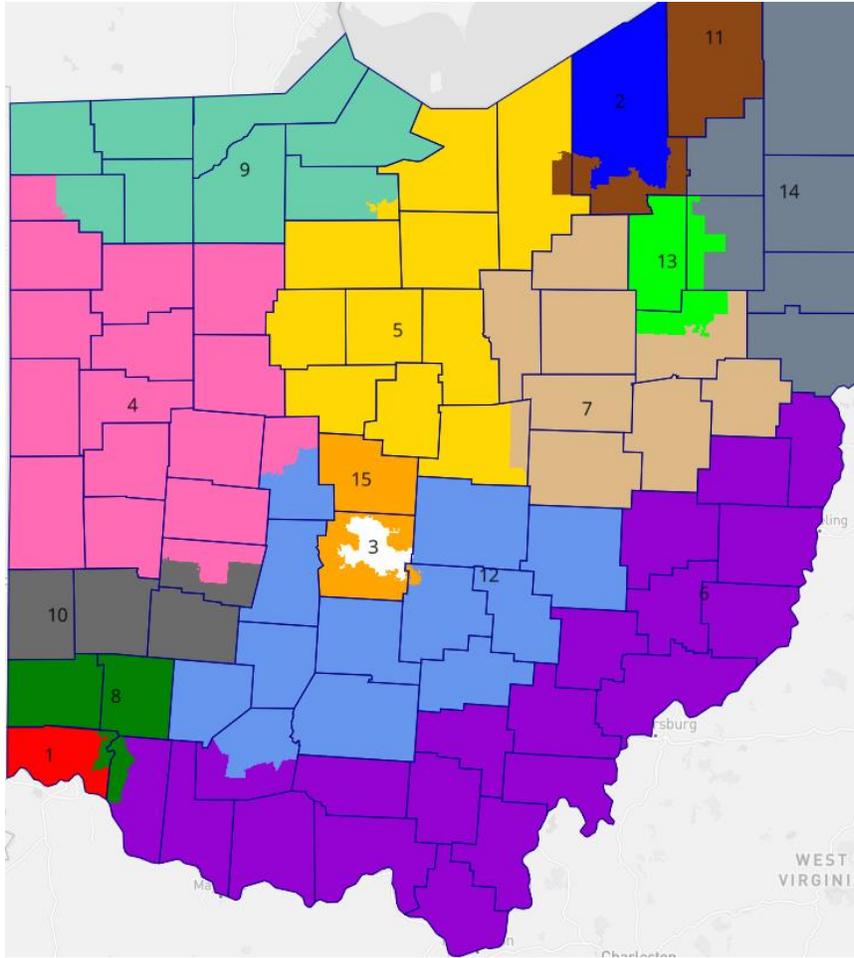
I was very upset when Democratic-aligned interest groups sued and were successful in causing the new 6th district to be thrown out. These groups decided that their partisan interests were more important than keeping communities together. Now that the districts have to be redrawn, I ask the Commission to adopt a map that keeps Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties together without any splits.

I believe that the map I drew would strike the best balance between keeping communities together and abiding by the Ohio Supreme Court order of partisan proportionality. Under the right circumstances for Democrats, it could result in a 9-6 partisan split. Under the right circumstances for Republicans, it could result in a 12-3 split.

My map does not achieve the perfect population for every district, but the difference between the population of the smallest and largest districts is eight people. When I drew these districts, I made the decision to split only one township whenever a county had to be split. Because of that, achieving the perfect population was next extremely hard or even impossible without making a district that split more townships than necessary.

Only 14 counties were split in this plan.

I also put a total of six incumbents together in three districts. Two of them, Steve Chabot and Brad Wenstrup, are forced to be put together due to the requirement to split Hamilton County no more than necessary. The explanation for why I put the other incumbents together will be explained in my reasoning for districts 4 and 9.



Here is my justification for why I drew these districts:

1 - This district is wholly contained within Hamilton County, as required by Article XIX and the Ohio Supreme Court.

2 - This district is wholly contained in Cuyahoga County and contains Cleveland and its eastern suburbs. This is also a VRA district.

3 - This district is based in Columbus. I interpreted Article XIX(B)(4)(a) as requiring Columbus to not be split any more than necessary. I kept as much of the city as possible within this district to abide by the constitution. This district contains 680,040 out of the 905,748 people who live in Columbus. The remaining population comes from the county subdivisions that are completely surrounded by Columbus.

4 - This district is based in the Miami Valley. Jim Jordan and Warren Davidson would both live within this district. This district was criticized at the Commission hearing on 2/22/22 for allegedly violating Article XIX(C)(3)(a) and (F)(3)(a). That criticism is an erroneous interpretation

of the section. That section states that districts cannot favor or disfavor an incumbent.

Davidson and Jordan both live in the Miami Valley and live in bordering counties which are included in the Dayton-Springfield-Sidney Combined Statistical Area.

Drawing a district for both of these incumbents would violate section (C)(3)(a) and (F)(3)(a) because it would require splitting up a region solely for the purpose of protecting an incumbent. Both of these incumbents benefitted from being elected to gerrymandered districts. If one of them is protected, that means that the Redistricting Commission or the General Assembly would have to perpetuate gerrymandering. That is not what the voters who supported the reforms to the redistricting process had in mind when they voted overwhelmingly in favor of it.

5 - This district is based in north-central Ohio. This was the last district that I drew, so it contains all the areas that didn't quite fit with other areas. This is a rural district, but contains some working-class cities like Lorain and Mansfield.

6 - This district is based around the Ohio River and keeps most of the Appalachian counties together. I chose to keep all these Ohio River counties together because they are very similar economically. The people who live there have a similar socio-economic status and level of education. Culturally they are also similar. This region has many unique problems, so it would greatly benefit this area to have one Representative who can focus exclusively on it.

A criticism of this district is that it is very large. That isn't a very strong criticism because in the plan passed by the General Assembly, they drew a district that stretched from Lorain County to the Indiana border. The counties included in that district had almost nothing in common. Because of the population spread in the state, a huge district will inevitably have to be drawn somewhere.

7 - This district is based around Amish Country. The Amish are a unique group that has its own culture and problems, which means that their community should be kept intact in any Congressional map. It also contains the city of Canton and most of Stark County, excluding some of Canton's northern suburbs.

8 - This map is based in the counties surrounding Hamilton County. It also contains the portion of Hamilton County that wasn't included in the 1st district. These counties have strong economic ties. This district also keeps all of Loveland together.

9 - This district is based in Northwest Ohio. It keeps all of Lucas County together and also contains the counties surrounding it along with the counties bordering Michigan. I chose to add the rural counties along the Michigan border because there is a huge drug and human trafficking problem in that area. People and drugs are being trafficked over the border into

Michigan and vice versa. County officials would benefit greatly by having one member of Congress to work with for this very serious issue.

This district would also put Marcy Kaptur and Bob Latta in the same district. Like the situation with Jim Jordan and Warren Davidson, Kaptur and Latta live in bordering counties in the same metro-area. Drawing a district for both of them would violate section (C)(3)(a) and (F)(3)(a) because the districts would be drawn to favor an incumbent by splitting a community. Combining the two into a single district that is roughly 50-50 would neither favor nor disfavor an incumbent. They both benefitted from gerrymandering, so making districts for both of them would require the perpetuation of gerrymandering within that region.

10 - This district is based in the Dayton Metropolitan area. It contains all of Montgomery County and the Dayton Airbase. It also contains the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport in Clark County. That area would benefit from having these military installations together in one district.

11 - This district is based in the suburbs of Cuyahoga County. It also contains all of Lake County and some of the eastern suburbs of Lorain County. These areas are very similar because they're basically all suburbs.

12 - This district is based in central Ohio. It contains almost the entirety of the Columbus metro area. I put these counties together because I wanted central Ohio to be represented in Congress without being in the shadow of Franklin County.

13 - This district contains all of Summit County along with Ravenna and the western suburbs of Portage County along with the suburbs of Canton. This is a Democratic-leaning district, but it could flip Republican under the right conditions.

14 - This district is based in the Greater Youngstown area. It contains all of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties and does not divide them in any way. These three counties are heavily linked economically and culturally, so it would be beneficial to my fellow residents if the district contains the entire region. This region is also a hub for electric vehicle production and additive manufacturing, so it is vital that the area has one Representative who can focus on advocating for these industries. This district also contains Geauga and Ashtabula, which both contain Amish communities.

15 - This district is based in the Columbus suburbs. It contains the remaining 225,708 people in Columbus. It also keeps Westerville and most of Dublin together. Based on election data, this district will end up flipping to the Democrats in the future.

# District Election Results

## 2016 Presidential

ID	Dem	Rep	Oth
Un	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	53.62%	41.95%	4.43%
2	78.86%	18.26%	2.88%
3	70.74%	24.72%	4.54%
4	24.61%	70.96%	4.43%
5	36.23%	58.77%	5.00%
6	28.03%	68.00%	3.97%
7	33.28%	61.97%	4.75%
8	32.34%	63.09%	4.57%
9	46.56%	47.66%	5.78%
10	42.36%	53.02%	4.62%
11	44.94%	50.87%	4.19%
12	29.78%	65.72%	4.50%
13	48.48%	47.15%	4.37%
14	41.26%	54.75%	3.99%
15	45.57%	49.37%	5.06%

## 2020 Presidential

ID	Dem	Rep	Oth
Un	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	57.69%	40.77%	1.53%
2	78.21%	20.71%	1.09%
3	74.38%	24.05%	1.57%
4	25.28%	73.16%	1.56%
5	35.89%	62.51%	1.60%
6	27.38%	71.36%	1.26%
7	33.67%	64.81%	1.51%
8	36.71%	61.79%	1.51%
9	47.61%	50.69%	1.71%
10	45.09%	53.24%	1.67%
11	48.25%	50.63%	1.12%
12	30.57%	67.90%	1.53%
13	50.44%	48.19%	1.37%
14	40.72%	57.95%	1.33%
15	51.40%	47.04%	1.56%

## 2016 Senate

ID	Dem	Rep	Oth
Un	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	43.31%	52.72%	3.98%
2	70.28%	24.65%	5.07%
3	61.81%	33.73%	4.46%
4	20.12%	75.30%	4.58%
5	32.07%	61.96%	5.96%
6	29.56%	65.67%	4.77%
7	29.17%	65.00%	5.82%
8	24.01%	71.90%	4.09%
9	40.25%	54.79%	4.96%
10	34.17%	61.46%	4.37%
11	35.78%	59.35%	4.87%
12	25.85%	69.48%	4.67%
13	41.56%	52.88%	5.55%
14	37.12%	57.40%	5.48%
15	35.75%	60.59%	3.65%

## 2018 Senate

ID	Dem	Rep	Oth
Un	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	60.15%	39.85%	0.00%
2	83.67%	16.33%	0.00%
3	78.00%	22.00%	0.00%
4	35.61%	64.39%	0.00%
5	48.46%	51.54%	0.00%
6	41.71%	58.29%	0.00%
7	44.29%	55.71%	0.00%
8	39.36%	60.64%	0.00%
9	58.45%	41.55%	0.00%
10	51.30%	48.70%	0.00%
11	55.51%	44.49%	0.00%
12	40.50%	59.50%	0.00%
13	57.48%	42.52%	0.00%
14	52.81%	47.19%	0.00%
15	54.45%	45.55%	0.00%

## 2018 Governor

ID	Dem	Rep	Oth
Un	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	54.35%	42.87%	2.78%
2	78.61%	19.05%	2.34%
3	73.25%	24.39%	2.36%
4	26.79%	69.97%	3.25%
5	40.57%	55.80%	3.63%
6	33.70%	63.34%	2.96%
7	37.61%	58.95%	3.44%
8	34.28%	62.90%	2.82%
9	49.62%	46.80%	3.59%
10	43.30%	53.55%	3.15%
11	47.95%	49.47%	2.58%
12	33.43%	63.64%	2.93%
13	51.93%	45.09%	2.98%
14	46.24%	50.72%	3.05%
15	48.94%	48.93%	2.12%