

Dear OH Redistricting Commission,

I took an opportunity to draw what I believe to be a reasonable Congressional map (<https://davesredistricting.org/join/16ff7e89-0c06-4cd4-8ab0-6d1ec82e0e78>) that offers a much more competitive set of districts than the 2012-2022 maps. Please note the following:

- In my proposal, I strived to keep counties intact (whole). At most, I split a county twice, never three or more times based upon review of my map.
- I also strived to keep metro areas intact and did not split the inner city of Cincinnati or Cleveland.
- There are distinct Congressional districts for the following metro areas: Toledo, Dayton, Akron, Canton, and Youngstown. Due to population, there are multiple districts for Cleveland and Cincinnati, although as I stated previously, I did not split the inner cities of either. Columbus is the only inner city where I had to split it into two due to the population of the city itself.
- I did not factor in the current GOP/DEM incumbents when drawing the map. It is likely that there are scenarios where incumbents may be pitted against each other in my scenario.
- Furthermore, I provided commentary and my rationale for how I came up with each district on the following Twitter thread: <https://twitter.com/MVRedPodcast/status/1497777565716697089>

I hope the Committee can look at this proposal and consider the pros/cons of it when it comes up with an eventual proposal that would be approved by the Ohio Supreme Court. Under this proposal, there would be 5 districts that would be considered "swing" districts in each Congressional election. Depending upon the political climate, we could see noticeable changes in Ohio's Congressional delegation every 2 years, which I believe addresses the concerns of the voters when it approved the Constitutional amendment a few years back. For instance, when using the 2018 Gubernatorial numbers, a competitive 4 point statewide race, the Congressional delegation would result in 9 Republicans and 6 Democrats. Furthermore, there would have been two additional races in which the Republican won by 3% or less in 2018 under my scenario.

I will concede, as a lifelong resident of the Mahoning Valley, that I drew a district that would not split the Mahoning Valley in half, as it currently is. I feel very passionately that a single voice representing the Mahoning Valley in Washington DC would help my metro area as it looks to reinvent itself with electric vehicle and additive manufacturing. I believe for far too long the Mahoning Valley has been viewed by some as an afterthought due to decades of economic troubles and political corruption that have plagued the area. I hope regardless of how the Commission draws the eventual Congressional maps, that you please strive to keep the Mahoning Valley in a single district.

In closing, I hope you consider my rationale for drawing the map the way I did. Like all other proposals, it is not perfect and likely has flaws which could be tweaked to make it better. However, I view it as a **starting point** to getting some Congressional districts more competitive each election.

Thank you for your consideration!

Michael Metzinger  
Boardman, OH | Mahoning County