

Testimony on the Ohio Redistricting Commission's Officially Proposed Maps From Glenn Campbell, 9-13-2021

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 am outraged by the officially proposed maps from the Ohio Redistricting Commission. These proposed maps fail the voters of Ohio in many ways. I will outline three key ways below.

1) Failure to achieve compactness. Compactness of districts is required by the Ohio constitution. The officially proposed maps are not anywhere near as compact as they could or should be. Instead, they include many needless and excessive splits of counties and municipalities, which erodes community cohesiveness and prevents communities from having unified representation. For example, proposed House district 18 is egregiously non-compact both on quick visual inspection and in terms of standard mathematical measures for computing map compactness.

2) Failure to achieve proportionality, or representational fairness. Based on statewide votes over the past decade, Ohio's two-party vote breaks down, on average, to 46.38% Democratic and 53.62% Republican. Yet the officially proposed maps from the Ohio Redistricting Commission would produce a likely outcome of just 32.32% Democratic-leaning districts and 67.67% Republican-leaning districts. The maps demonstrate egregious packing in many predominantly Democratic districts. Beyond being unspeakably unfair and ant-democratic, this results in very few districts that are truly competitive between the two parties, which leaves many voters feeling they have little real-world electoral choice.

3) Failure to ensure ethnically diverse election results. The officially proposed maps inappropriately pack racial and ethnic minorities into Ohio House districts. For example, House districts 24 and 25 have a large surplus of population along with significant percentages of minority residents. Concentrating minority populations in this way can undercut the diversity of election results.

In short, the officially proposed maps of the Ohio Redistricting Commission have terribly failed the Ohio voters who voted overwhelmingly for redistricting reform in 2015 and 2018. These maps must be significantly revamped to fully address all the shortcomings above. If the Commission fails to do so, Ohioans like me have no option but to pursue another ballot initiative as soon as possible for REAL redistricting reform with strict, binding teeth to make this type of partisan gerrymandering utterly and absolutely impossible to achieve.

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