

To: The Ohio Redistricting Commission
From: Marian E. Krieger
Subject: Written testimony for hearing at Tri-C east, Corporate
College, September 13, 2021

In 2015 72% of Ohio voters approved changes to the Ohio Constitution designed to rein in partisan gerrymandering in the state legislative districts. Rules in article XI of the constitution require that districts are proportional. That means that the districts' partisan make-up reflects Ohio as a whole. In my opinion the Republican map accepted by the majority on the Ohio Redistricting Commission (ORC) fails to meet this requirement.

Current data reveals that of the 3.5 million voters who identify party affiliation, **46%** are Democrats and **54%** are Republicans. To meet the requirements for representational fairness in the house where there are 99 members, **46** seats should go to **Democratic leaning districts** and **53** seats to **Republican leaning districts**. However, the map presented by the ORC would likely result in **32** Democratic leaning districts and **68** Republican leaning districts. The picture is similarly lopsided in the Senate.. Representational fairness would result in **15** Democratic leaning districts and **18** Republican leaning districts. However, the likely outcome of the ORC proposed map would be **10** Democratic leaning districts and **23** Republican leaning districts. One can easily see that the ORC map does not honor the spirit or the letter of redistricting changes approved overwhelmingly by voters in 2015.

In my own district in Cuyahoga county, the issue of minority representation is also critical. The proposed map would pack mine and other districts along racial and partisan lines. The result is a compacting of Democratic votes. When minority voters are packed into fewer districts, the end result can affect the diversity of election results. Members of the ORC have stated on the record that they did not examine the racial composition of their map despite the availability of the most up do date census data. In my opinion this is a glaring omission which demonstrates a blatant

disregard for the Ohio Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act, minority communities in Ohio and voters across the state.

By an overwhelming majority (72%) we the voters in Ohio have stated clearly that we want a map that produces representational fairness and non-gerrymandered districts. Neither of these conditions have been met in the ORC proposed map. It should be rejected.