

When is the commission going to take this process seriously? As a concerned Ohioan, I am reaching out today to urge you to vote against the state legislative maps proposed and passed for consideration on a party line vote by Ohio Republicans. This is a joke and a fraud. The Ohio Constitution has already been violated with the improper scheduling of citizen feedback. That in itself makes anything the commission does invalid.

I have several other significant concerns about these maps. These maps are more gerrymandered than the previous. First, in their testimony to the Commission, the Republicans' mappers admitted that their leadership instructed them to ignore demographic and racial data. Ohio's map drawers are obligated to ensure that communities of color have adequate and real pathways to political representation -- yet it appears that the Republicans on the Commission are not even going to try to meet this obligation. This violates the Civil Rights Act.

Second, these maps would give Republicans a supermajority in the House and Senate -- with as many as 66% of the districts drawn to favor Republicans. This does not reflect our electorate. In recent statewide elections, only 55% of Ohioan voters supported Republicans. A fair map would show a 55-45 split amongst districts.

Additionally, these maps carve up communities of interest -- dividing our neighborhoods and pulling together parts of the state that don't belong in the same districts. Notably, these maps crack and pack Ohio's communities of color.

These proposed maps -- and the process to date - fail to meet the promise of our reform measures passed by Ohio's voters and the demands of our constitution.

I urge you to please vote NO on these proposed legislative maps.