

My name is Joshua Walker. I am a history teacher in Cleveland and a citizen of the state of Ohio. I would like to thank the Redistricting Commission for being here today.

I have a simple question: why can't Ohioans have fair districts?

Our state is not a deep red or a deep blue state. It is a state of balance.

In 2018, Republican Governor DeWine was elected by less than four percentage points.

In 2018, Secretary LaRose was elected by less than four percentage points.

Ohioans voted for Republican President Trump in 2020 by just over eight points, but we also voted for Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown by over seven in 2018. We have voted for four Republican Supreme Court Justices, but also three Democratic Justices.

Ohio is the state of perfect balance. Our license plates say so. Our voting records say so. So why can't we have a more balanced statehouse?

Ohioans want fair districts. We voted for them in 2015. We voted for them in 2018. We want them now. Now is the time for fair districts.

History will remember what you do here. Did you vote for democracy? Or did you vote for gerrymandering? I hope you'll do the right thing.