

To: Members of Ohio Redistricting Commission

From: Kathryn Brown, Hudson, Ohio



Date: September 13, 2021

Subject: Written Testimony Re: Proposed Voting District Maps Accepted by Ohio Redistricting Commission

This testimony is written to convey my concerns about the Proposed Voting District Maps accepted by the Ohio Redistricting Commission (ORC) on September 9, 2021. As the Commission is well aware, the changes to the Ohio Constitution as result of redistricting reforms approved in all 88 counties were intended to produce fairer voting districts for Ohioans. To accomplish this the proposed maps are to be more:

Proportional

Improve Minority Representation

Improve district Compactness

The maps approved by the ORC for both the House and Senate districts do not achieve that result. An easy way to understand this opinion is to compare the approved maps to those submitted to the ORC by Geoff Wise, Ph.D. of Cincinnati. Dr. Wise's maps are better on all three dimensions noted above for the House maps, and better on Proportionality and Compactness and equivalent on Minority Representation for the Senate maps. Clearly it is possible to come up with maps that truly improve upon existing voting districts.

Ohioans expect and deserve to have voting district maps that give the vote of each one of us an influence on who represents us. We should be choosing our representatives not the reverse. I urge the Commission to listen to the demand for Fair Districts from the voters.