

September 12, 2021
5136 Grelyn Drive
Toledo, OH 43615

The Honorable Governor Mike DeWine
The Honorable Robert Cupp
The Honorable Emilia Strong-Sykes
The Honorable Matt Huffman
The Honorable Kenny Yuko
Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Auditory of State Keith Faber
The Honorable Gary Click
The Honorable Paula Hicks-Hudson
The Honorable Teresa Fedor

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to implore you to act in accordance with the will of the VOTERS of Ohio. The map proposed and submitted by the committee last week is unacceptable. It fell far short of the spirit and letter of the voter mandate. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am with the map you presented.

After studying your map, it appears that someone spent a considerable amount of time constructing a map more gerrymandered than the current one. The proposed map is a slap in the face to Ohio voters who expected committee members to take their charge seriously. Ohioans have voted OVERWHELMINGLY on two occasions for better maps. It appears that request fell on deaf ears.

Simple software programs are available to assist in the complicated process of developing fair maps that meet specific criteria for fairness. In addition, collaborating with experts in a bipartisan fashion would foster transparency and ensure an ethical and fair process for all. "Dave's redistricting app" was used by a number of people to offer much better maps than the one you proposed and adopted along party lines. Since we have many important time critical deadlines, collaboration would have fostered expediency. Dave's redistricting app required maps consider to the following key elements and yields a score with 100 being perfect.

Proportionality or Representational Fairness
Minority Representation
Compactness
Splitting of Political Subdivisions
Competitiveness

The **proposed Ohio Senate map** falls far too low on the score for **competitiveness (26)** and **proportionality (43)**; see below.

Proportionality or Representational Fairness: 43
Minority Representation; 49
Compactness: 49
Splitting of Political Subdivisions: 91
Competitiveness; 26

For me, competitiveness and proportionality are two elements *critical* to fair elections. These two elements are central to eliminating gerrymandering so that elections reflect the will of the people. Competitive elections allow for more robust debate and a winner who is more likely to look to represent all the people. Of the twenty maps submitted to Fair Districts for consideration, three had better scores for competitiveness and twenty had better scores for proportionality!

I would strongly recommend that you consider the Senate map developed by Geoff Wise. His score for competitiveness is 36 and he found twelve 12 competitive districts! Your map actually resulted in a *reduction* in competitive seats. In addition, his proportionality score of 98 far exceeded yours. Lastly, and of critical importance, Mr. Wise wisely chose to draw a map that was compliant with the Federal Voting Rights Act; see below. During the Thursday meeting, it was found that your map did not even consider such a crucial element.

Proportionality or Representational Fairness: 98
Minority Representation: 47
Compactness: 59
Splitting of Political Subdivisions: 61
Competitiveness: 36

In regards to the *Ohio District map*, I would respectfully ask that you use Mr. Wise's map as well: see below. It scored far better than yours in three categories and tied in one.

Proportionality or Representational Fairness: 82
Minority Representation: 64
Compactness: 56
Splitting of Political Subdivisions: 100
Competitiveness: 31

Proposed District map:

Proportionality or Representational Fairness: 51
Minority Representation: 58
Compactness: 49
Splitting of Political Subdivisions: 100
Competitiveness: 22

As I stated previously in my letter to the committee at the Toledo hearing:

Gerrymandered districts are one of the major fuels propelling unprecedented voter discord in Ohio and in the country!

As Ohio's districts are currently configured they have enabled:

- The most extreme voices to be elected because the politician represents a contorted district that ensures their election, rather than a district that represents the voters of a compact contiguous area.

- A lack of willingness to compromise because the party in power has no reason to do so.
- One party in Ohio to win 11/16 (65%) seats while receiving only 48% of the vote.
- Too much governmental gridlock because extreme voices are amplified and the voices of moderation and compromise are diluted.

I have included District Representative Gary Click on this letter. He dutifully set through a 90 minute zoom meeting for fair districting which was admirable. During his comments at the end of the meeting he said: Don't assume ill will. I was surprised by this comment because I initially felt he had not "heard" our concerns. I later decided to take his comment to heart. I know he is a minister in his district.

This is why when I studied the map presented at the hearing, I was shocked, dismayed, and stunned at what appears to be a total lack of serious intent to comply with the request of Ohio voters. It was difficult not to think "ill will" when the map was more gerrymandered. A conservative Republican present even stepped forward to roundly criticize the process during the Thursday hearing. To add insult to injury, the committee only wanted to hear comments on their map. No one had time to study the map, the meeting was scheduled on extremely short, and, **again**, at a time that was inconvenient for most working Ohioans to attend.

Please consider the many maps presented by concerned Ohioans who spent hours of their personal time to participate in this process. Please do what Ohio voters have requested you to do. You were given a mandate in 2015 and again in 2018.

If the committee is not able to rise to this occasion, we should again never consider ourselves Reagan's "shining city on the hill". We should have no claim as a moral force for good in the world. Please do not put Ohio voters in a position where requests are ignored by the politicians we elected to carry out OUR will. This is what they do in third world countries.

In closing, I will remind you of my comments in my letter of August 22, 2021: ***"Ohio voters are asking for your commitment to open, transparent, bipartisan, and ethical Congressional and Ohio legislative maps this year. Ohio voters have clearly said this is their wish, not once, but twice. Can we count on you to do what we asked you to do?"***

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terrilyn D. Copeland
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Congressional District #9
Ohio House District #44
Ohio Senate District # 11

