

September 12, 2021

Dear Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

I am writing to state my position regarding redistricting maps submitted for the Ohio General Assembly. I strongly favor the Ohio House and Senate redistricting maps submitted by Goeff Wise and Pranav Padmanabhan, the co-winners of the Fair Districts Ohio Mapping Competition, over the officially proposed maps. Using the scoring system of Dave's Redistricting App, these citizen-developed maps do a much better job of taking into account the redistricting requirements in the Ohio Constitution - in particular, the requirements for proportionality, compactness, and minority representation.

Article XI (General Assembly Redistricting), Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution states: "No general assembly district plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party." and "The statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party shall correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio." In the past ten years, Ohio voting preferences (46.38% Democratic and 53.62% Republican) show a much closer split than the likely outcome from the officially proposed maps, which clearly favor Republican candidates, and are, therefore, drawn counter to the charge in Article XI. There are 99 Ohio House seats. If the number of Democratic and Republican House districts leaning toward each party were closest to proportional, there would be 46 Democratic leaning districts and 53 Republican leaning districts. The likely result of the officially proposed redistricting map is skewed in favor of Republican candidates, with 32 (32.32%) Democratic leaning districts and 67 (67.67%) Republican leaning districts. There are 33 Ohio Senate seats. If the number of Democratic and Republican Senate districts leaning toward each party were closest to proportional, there would be 15 Democratic leaning districts and 18 Republican leaning districts. The likely result of the officially proposed redistricting map again favors Republican candidates, with 10 (30.3%) Democratic leaning districts and 23 (69.69%) Republican leaning districts.

I want the final versions of the redistricting maps to closely reflect the considerations, approaches, and outcomes of the Wise and Padmanabhan maps. The mapping process and maps must reflect transparency, bipartisan action, and public input and result in representationally fair districts as required in the Ohio Constitution. Ohio voters will not support maps that once again rig the system in favor of one political party. As a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, you are accountable to the redistricting reform measures overwhelmingly passed by Ohio voters in 2015 and 2018 and codified in the Ohio Constitution. Ohio citizens are working diligently to develop redistricting maps that meet the requirements and fairness agenda of the redistricting measures. It is your responsibility to do the same. The actions and positions individual candidates have taken regarding redistricting will be a big factor in how I vote in future elections.

Sincerely,

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