

Sept. 13, 2021

To the Honorable members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Please accept my apologies for not appearing in person.

I urge you to reject the officially proposed redistricting maps. They are an affront to the voters of this state, the antithesis of what Ohio's citizens voted for when, in 2015 and 2018, they overwhelmingly approved constitutional amendments aimed at ending gerrymandering.

I urge you instead to adopt citizen-proposed maps drawn by Geoff Wise of Cincinnati or Pranav Padmanabhan of Columbus, or their methodology. Padmanabhan's and Wise's Ohio Senate and Ohio House district maps far exceed the official maps in providing fair districts. Analysis shows their Senate and House districts maps are considerably superior in the key parameters of proportionality and compactness, and their House district maps in minority representation.

The narratives that accompany the citizen-proposed maps tell voters how the mapmakers followed the wants of voters in drawing districts. The official maps provide no such context. And the majority members of this commission have yet to explain how they came to present a map that would greatly benefit the party in power, at the cost of fair representation to Ohio's voters. That information should be provided to the public, which has called and voted for transparency.

As an Ohioan with a long history of voting for Republicans and Democrats, I urge you, in considering these maps, to adhere to the letter and intents of the constitutional amendments. There should be no districts where one citizen's vote has less or in practicality no value compared to another's because one party or the other has manipulated the district to ensure its benefit.

We need maps that provide every Ohioan access to fair representation. The official maps fail miserably. Please reject them and pursue maps that are fair to all Ohioans.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Mayhood