

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I am disappointed in the maps you have proposed for Ohio's new districts. The Ohio Constitution, as amended by us, the voters, clearly states that new maps must aim for representational fairness; the percentages of Republicans and Democrats serving in the Ohio State House should closely match the percentages of how many total Ohioans voted for each party. Ohioans have been voting about 53% Republican and 46% Democrat. Instead of reflecting this proportion, your maps seem designed to preserve an unbalanced super-majority.

I am also disappointed in the way your maps have split my local community. I live in northern Butler County, and your map splits our local school district (Talawanda School District) not only into two different Ohio House districts, but also into two different Ohio Senate districts. This makes no sense locally. Oxford and the whole Talawanda district are in closer community with Hamilton and Trenton than we are with towns in Preble County. The maps proposed yesterday by Sykes, while closer to representational fairness than the Commission's official proposals, are no better in my local area, still dividing our local communities and looking very gerrymandered.

I would like to commend to the commission the maps designed by Pranav Padmanabhan, which are co-winners of Fair Districts Ohio's map drawing contest. I have no idea who this person is, but I am quite impressed by the maps they drew. Here are links to these maps, and to the designer's explanation of what priorities were used to draw them.

- <https://davesredistricting.org/join/c48a229f-2597-43a5-a238-cc7e96ca5ca4> for the first prize winning Ohio House map by Pranav Padmanabhan.
- <https://davesredistricting.org/join/f97f0523-ea00-4879-aebe-9f372ee5beca> for the first prize winning Ohio Senate map by Pranav Padmanabhan.
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wOUXfOgxqgSblnj-57IAb8Wi_oHVgRB_Fhet11uJBM/edit for the narrative that accompanies the maps explaining choices made.

Padmanabhan's maps and process seem right in line with the requirements that Ohioans voted into our Constitution. My local House district looks a bit gerrymandered at first glance, but our school districts are maintained intact, and with a little local knowledge these lines make a lot of sense here.

Before I close, I must say I am further disappointed in the Commission's work because of how you scheduled these hearings. All but one of them, as best I can tell, were during the usual work day, and you delayed announcing them absolutely as long as possible. This is not what excellent democracy looks like, and Ohio deserves better.

Please, Commission, re-work your maps until they reflect representational fairness, and keep local communities (which are often easily measured by school districts) intact. I recommend starting with Padmanabhan's maps.

Thank you,

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