

OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Rema Rizek

6141 Beckett Station Ct.

West Chester, OH 45069

NOT IN SUPPORT OF:

Ohio Redistricting Commission

GOP Proposed Maps

[West Chester, OH, 9/13/21] — Thank you to the members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed maps by the Commission’s majority members. My name is Rema Rizek, and I am from West Chester, Ohio. I have been a resident here for the last 12 years.

The 2020 redistricting cycle promised change to me and my fellow Ohio citizens in the form of a fair and transparent process which reflects the true political landscape in Ohio. Unfortunately, the process facilitated by this commission does not reflect the changes I hoped to see. As a mother who homeschools her children, I was not able to attend any of the hearings which were scheduled during the work and school day. With time as a constraint, my limited inspection of the GOP maps shows that there are still significant changes to be made. Unfortunately, the GOP maps do not reflect statewide voting preferences and give the GOP another decade of supermajorities in both chambers, despite only having 54% of the vote. To reflect how Ohioans vote, the Statehouse seat count should include at least 44 Democratic House seats and 15 Democratic Senate seats. Representational fairness is a basic tenant of our democracy, and the current GOP maps show that they were not drawn with citizens’ perspectives in mind.

I am deeply disappointed in the commission’s mishandling of this important process. I look forward to the Commission providing a more detailed opportunity for inspection of the maps and making the necessary changes to reflect the reality of Ohio voters.

Thank you for your time.