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Ohio Redistricting Commission  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

September 13, 2021

Dear Ohio Redistricting Commission:

My name is Gwen Short, I am from the Dayton area and currently reside in Columbus. I am concerned because Ohio has been gerrymandered in the past and the map presented by the Ohio Redistricting Commission appears gerrymandered as well. Gerrymandering further marginalizes our most marginalized communities by overwhelming their voices with voices outside of their community. Such a practice is undemocratic, has no place in our democracy, and violates our constitution. Ohio Cons. Art. 11 Sec. 6.

I grew up in Miamisburg and moved to Centerville, two pretty different suburbs south of Dayton. Currently, the Eastern half of Centerville is lumped into a House District with Miamisburg and Germantown. The Western Half of Centerville, along with a carve-out for a particularly wealthy area of Centerville, Yankee Trace, is lumped with Kettering and Oakwood, another particularly wealthy area. Dividing Centerville in half like this seems to be a strategic move to keep certain areas of wealth together while keeping lower socially economic areas separate, tactics known as packing and cracking.

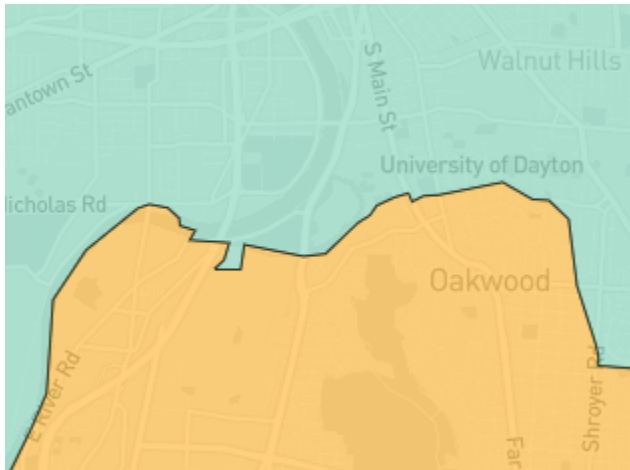
The new House District Map proposed by the Ohio Redistricting Commission is slightly better for the Dayton area, but still packs certain areas and divides, or cracks, Dayton-proper. Proposed District 38 is an etch-a-sketch district that is clearly drawn to separate party lines and is divided among political lines. It also doesn't include Oakwood which is closely tied to the area. Similar etch-a-sketch schemes have manifested in proposed House Districts in Columbus. Images to show the areas mentioned are shared below my signature.

Splicing communities while simultaneously centering white, wealthy demographics in districts like this leads to further division in our State House. Because the Senate District Map depends on the House District Map, it is imperative that the Ohio Redistricting Commission address these districts with wobbly lines cutting in and out of communities and create clear districts that reflect communities more properly. *See* Ohio Cons. Art 11, Sec. 4.

I encourage the Ohio Redistricting Commission to listen to the voices of Ohioans as represented by the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission. The maps proposed by this citizen-led commission are representative of what the people want and how communities across Ohio function. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Short

Oakwood excluded from Dayton-proper.



Proposed “etch-a-sketch” district lines in Dayton and Columbus regions.

