

9/14/21 Ohio Statehouse

My name is Melissa Sull. I live in Gahanna, Ohio. I currently vote in Ohio House District 19, Ohio Senate District 3, and Congressional district 12. I suffer less than equal representation because of gerrymandering.

I testified to this commission on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Mansfield about our Gahanna-Jefferson School District which is broken into three Ohio house districts and on September 8<sup>th</sup> in Columbus about the need for bipartisan effort to create fair maps for all Ohioans.

This commission has yet to publish a bi-partisan map and I have seen no evidence of the members working jointly to create one. You have left it to citizen volunteers to do your job of creating maps that meet the letter and spirit of the constitution. The map submission from Fair Districts is an excellent example of how fair maps can be drawn, this committee has largely ignored those maps!

I have just seen the maps developed by the Democratic committee members and although it is hard to tell with certainty, it looks like more of my community is whole within our district.

The maps developed by GOP mapmakers and shared at the September 8<sup>th</sup> hearings are more gerrymandered than what we currently have! The bizarrely shaped and shamelessly partisan GOP maps are further evidence that Republicans decided in advance for a four-year partisan solution inconsistent with the will of Ohio's voters.

It is troubling that the majority party is making it increasingly difficult for citizens, particularly those with opposing political views and people of color, to participate equally in the political process. These maps are not fair maps and they do not represent how Ohioans vote.

A party with compelling vision and policies doesn't need to pick their voters to win. Gerrymandering is cheating. Ohioans deserve fair maps.

Thank you,

Melissa Sull

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