

Written Testimony to the Ohio Redistricting Commission
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Following the redistricting of Ohio legislative seats after the 2010 Census, the citizens of Ohio made it very clear that they wanted this year's redistricting to be handled in an open, fair process. Now it is very clear that the current leaders of the state have chosen to blatantly ignore those wishes.

It is true that the process has been hampered by the delay of the results from the 2020 Census. However, the manner and timing in which the proposed maps were finally presented and adopted, as well as the scheduling of hearings, were not done to maximize public input into this vital process.

The extreme partisan nature of the proposed maps makes it abundantly clear why those in control of this process do not want it to be open. It is completely ludicrous for a state where the voting over the past ten years has had a split of 55% to 45% between the parties to propose legislative districts that would likely entrench the current supermajority of one party for another 10 years. Actually, ludicrous is much too mild a word. It is criminal. It is undemocratic.

Our system of government will only work if the parties are on a level playing field and the voters are the ones making decisions about their leaders. It will not work if one party is given an advantage to maintain power through acts such as gerrymandering and voter suppression. The proposed maps are clearly intended to maintain Ohio as one of the most gerrymandered states in this country. This is completely unacceptable.

Those who support these proposed maps are enemies of democracy. The war that was fought to establish this country was to ensure that its citizens were fairly represented in determining how they are governed. Do you reject those basic principles for partisan advantage.