



**Board of County  
Commissioners**  
**Tina Skeldon Wozniak**  
*President*  
**Pete Gerken**  
**Gary L. Byers**

Testimony before the Ohio Redistricting Commission  
Regarding the Proposed Ohio Legislative Redistricting Maps  
September 14, 2021

Lucas County Board of Commissioners  
Tina Skeldon Wozniak, President  
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Governor DeWine, Auditor Faber, Secretary LaRose, Co-chairs Cupp and Sykes, Senate President Matt Huffman, and House Minority Leader Sykes, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners respectfully submits this written testimony to formally request that the Committee reexamine the proposed Ohio legislative redistricting map. The map introduced does not safeguard representational fairness the voters of Ohio expect.

The commitment of Ohioans to open and transparent development of fair, compact, representative legislative districts has been demonstrated through overwhelming voter support of two amendments to the Ohio Constitution that reformed the way districts are drawn. Guidelines for drawing maps demand that districts must be contiguous and compact with boundaries that take into consideration county, municipal and township boundaries. The legislative districts are also expected to refrain from splitting a county more than once and must have no more than five percent variation in population, reflecting the results of state and federal elections over the past decade.

Unfortunately, the map advanced to date falls far short of those laudable mandates. The map, as drafted, nether achieves the objectives set forth nor does it adhere to the spirit of the Voting Rights Act. It packs voters into safe districts, impairing the ability of members of the public to access the elected officials who represent them. By splitting some neighborhoods into different districts, it also unnecessarily complicates the process by which citizens can petition state elected representatives for needs in their communities.

Every aspect of public life relies on the creation of fair districts: education; economic development that supports good-paying jobs; access to healthcare; and even the fundamental right to vote. In Lucas County, our ability to tackle these important issues and others such as criminal justice reform rely on fair districts. We are extremely concerned that with the way districts are drawn for the next decade, important local voices will be silenced and this crucial work will be exponentially more difficult.

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By working together to create fair districts as mandated by the Ohio Constitution, we can fund our schools fairly, create good paying jobs, and restore the promise that legislation should be thoughtfully considered to include the many voices that make up Ohio. The Lucas County Commissioners implore the Ohio Redistricting Commission to reject the maps as drawn and develop a map that creates compact, contiguous, and competitive legislative districts to improve representation for all Ohioans.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.