

My name is Cheryl Claypoole-Beall. I vote in Ohio House District 72, Ohio Senate District 31 and U.S. Congressional District 12.

I plan to testify August 25, 2021 at the Ohio University – Zanesville hearing.

I'm here to share a brief story about why fair districts are important to me.

Not long after I moved to Licking County, the U.S. Justice Department indicted my Ohio House Representative for bribery and other charges related to House Bill 6.

Astonishingly, he was re-elected – at least in part because of the heavily gerrymandered 72nd district, which sprawls across three counties but somehow doesn't include all of Licking County.

Because he wasn't removed by his peers until recently, I essentially had no representation in the Ohio House for close to a year. His office was utterly unresponsive to concerns I raised, not bothering to send so much as a form email in response.

Yet he remained in office, collecting an annual salary of over \$67,000, plus benefits, at taxpayer expense.

This is unacceptable!

I urge this Commission to create fair districts that let voters choose their representatives - not that allow politicians of either party to have "safe" seats.

Citizens have a right to choose responsive elected representatives, and to vote out corrupt or unresponsive legislators.

Moreover, districts should be drawn to keep communities or political subdivisions together, not split across several counties to ensure an advantage by either party.

Please deliver the fair and equitable districts that Ohioans deserve - and that over 70 percent of us voted for in 2015 and 2018.

Cheryl Claypoole-Beall
Buckeye Lake, Ohio