



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO

100 E. Broad St., Suite 1310 • Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone (614) 469-1505 • Fax (614) 469-7918

www.lwvohio.org

**Testimony on SJR 5, Congressional Redistricting Process Establishment
Before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Presented on behalf of the
League of Women Voters of Ohio
January 23, 2018**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio opposes SJR5. It does nothing to reign in partisan gerrymandering and takes away an important right that voters in Ohio currently have – the right to referendum. The right to referendum is particularly important in this instance because voters are very directly impacted by partisan gerrymandering and need to have this important recourse.

Voters also have a right to fair representation and SJR5 perpetuates the ability of the majority party to draw districts designed to gain a disproportionate majority of seats for their party.

The process begins with requirement of bi-partisanship but, if agreement isn't reached with the minority party, a "majority party rules" default can be used to perpetuate the current system of partisan gerrymandering. There are no effective requirements to keep communities together – large counties can be split into 3 and 4 pieces, and most cities can be split. There is no prohibition on drawing a plan primarily to favor a disfavor a political party.

I urge this Committee to reject this proposal and substitute a plan that will require bi-partisan support to adopt a redistricting plan, keep communities together, and not permit plans to be drawn to primarily favor or disfavor a political party.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.