

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Dr. Mark G. Ryland

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IN SUPPORT OF:

Fair Maps and redistricting

Redistricting Commission

My name is Dr. Mark Ryland, I live in Stow, Ohio and work at Cuyahoga Community College as an Associate Professor in an Allied Health Career Field.

In 2018 74.9% of Ohio voters told legislators at the ballot box that new maps should be and needed to be re-drawn for our state. There was a strong and decisive opinion expressed in the vast majority of Ohio voters (including myself) to correct the 2011 partisan Republican gerrymandering that has resulted in 75% of Ohio Congressional seats being occupied by Republicans despite the fact that in the last decade Republicans have only won 54% of our votes. I should point out that until 2016, I was a registered Republican. Ohio is neither Red nor Blue. Therefore, the Republican representation in Ohio should only be 54%.

As I stated when I introduced myself, I live in Stow, Ohio which is in Summit County and is just east of Akron. Summit County is one of the largest counties in Ohio and has a very diverse population. Akron is the anchor of our county. When you look at the district map of Summit County which was established in 2011, there are only 2 conclusions you can come to:

- 1) A two year old child was given a map of Summit County and four different colored crayons and colored it like a 2 year old would.
- 2) Republicans carved out large chunks of the county to dilute the votes of the majority of the population, particularly black voters.

I think we know which one of these conclusions is correct. The district lines in our county are completely ludicrous, and Akron should be kept whole, as its own district. In actuality, Summit county should be its own district.

Despite this overwhelming opinion of Ohio voters for legislators to act and come up with a fairer map, and three years to do it, nothing of any real meaning or value has been done. The Legislators and the Redistricting Commission have failed the people miserably and you should be ashamed of yourselves. You do not deserve our votes and you do not deserve our respect. I personally feel your inaction has been intentional and guided by partisan politics and ultra-conservative beliefs and you should all resign.

We deserve better from our elected officials.