

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 11/04/21 _____

Name: Susan L. O'Donnell _____

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 337 Sycamore Ridge Way _____

City: Gahanna _____ State: OH _____ Zip: 43230 _____

Best Contact Telephone: 614 478 4428 _____ Email: sodonne@columbus.rr.com _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 237 & SB 258 _____

Specific Issue: Congressional Redistricting _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position: See Below:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Ohioans love sports: OSU football, Indians and Reds Baseball, Crew Soccer, Blue Jackets Hockey, etc. We admire great athletes, appreciate well-executed plays, and give credit to exceptional coaching. What we cannot stand is cheating in athletic contests. Why then should we tolerate Gerrymandering in politics?

If Ohio's Gerrymandered districts were football, the endzone for the Republicans would start at midfield and the one for the Democrats would be buried at the back of their own end zone. And Ohioans would boo and call foul. In fact, they did. In 2015 and 2018, Ohio voters passed ballot mandates for redistricting to reduce the gerrymandered districts that produce unfair elections and unbalanced representation.

More than 74% of Ohioans voted for Issue 1 in 2018. Ohioans want fair districts—districts that represent the wishes and opinions of the citizens of Ohio. According to Pew Research, 42% of Ohio voters are Republicans or lean Republican while 40% are Democrats or lean Democrat. That leaves 18% as independents. When Ohio voters are not trapped in Gerrymandered districts, they elect one Republican and one Democratic senator, which reflects a balanced electorate. Realistically a fair map would be more likely to produce 8 Republican and 7 Democrat Representatives. Fair districts might produce more competitive districts, which benefits the voters, with candidates of both parties having to pay closer attention to their constituents.

Ohio used to be considered a "swing state" because we had large cities with unions and agrarian rural areas—a mix of Democrats and Republicans. Now we are a Red state. Why? Because of gerrymandering—the manipulation of districts to provide more representatives of one party than another.

Fair is fair and Ohioans are fair. Which is why, regardless of which party does it, Gerrymandering is cheating. No "redistricting" that continues to produce districts like "the snake on the lake" and districts 12 and 15 can be called fair. Be heroes for democracy! Trust the voters, give us a level playing field—fair maps, and let the best team win.