

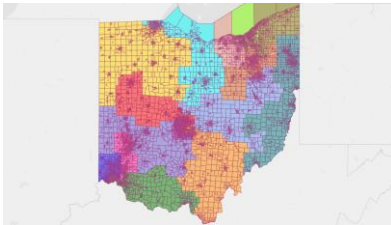
Testimony

November 8, 2021

Goods morning

Ohioans want a **ten year** Congressional map that is **fair**.

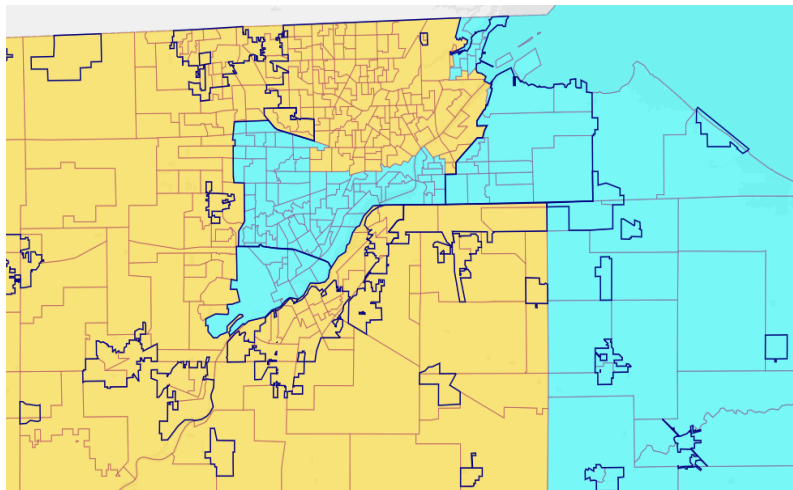
What's wrong with this map? Senate GOP Map: [SB 258](#)



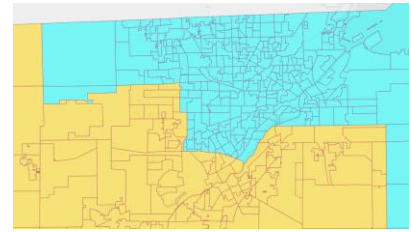
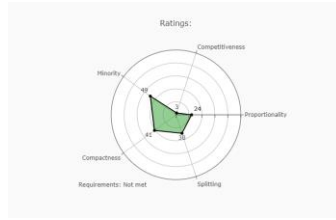
This is an insult to minority Ohioans in Lucas County. The map splits the minority population of the city into two different rural areas of Ohio. While some concerns are universal, urban areas have very different interests. We deserve representatives who are attentive to our specific concerns. Precincts with near 80% minority is split into two different districts. One half of Lucas county is connected to Moderately red Fulton, Williams, Defiance, and Henry counties along with deep red Putnum, Paulding and Van Wert counties.

To the east, Toledo is connected with Sandusky, Seneca, Huron along with Crawford, Morrow and Wyandot – the latter three all deep red counties. All of these are rural communities. The obvious reason for this totally new association is to weaken Democratic voices. Toledo is the ONLY large urban area on the lake in this district. There would be minimal voice to speak for these residents. The Toledo Port Authority has an opportunity to increase volume due to COVID initiated supply chain issues.

This is a close up of Toledo/Lucas County



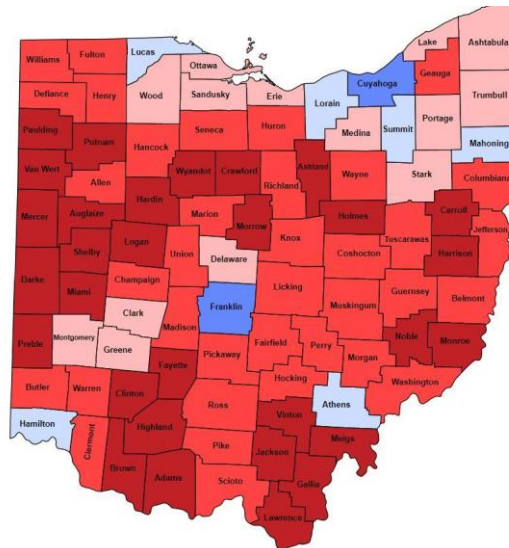
What's wrong with this map? House GOP map [HB 479](#)



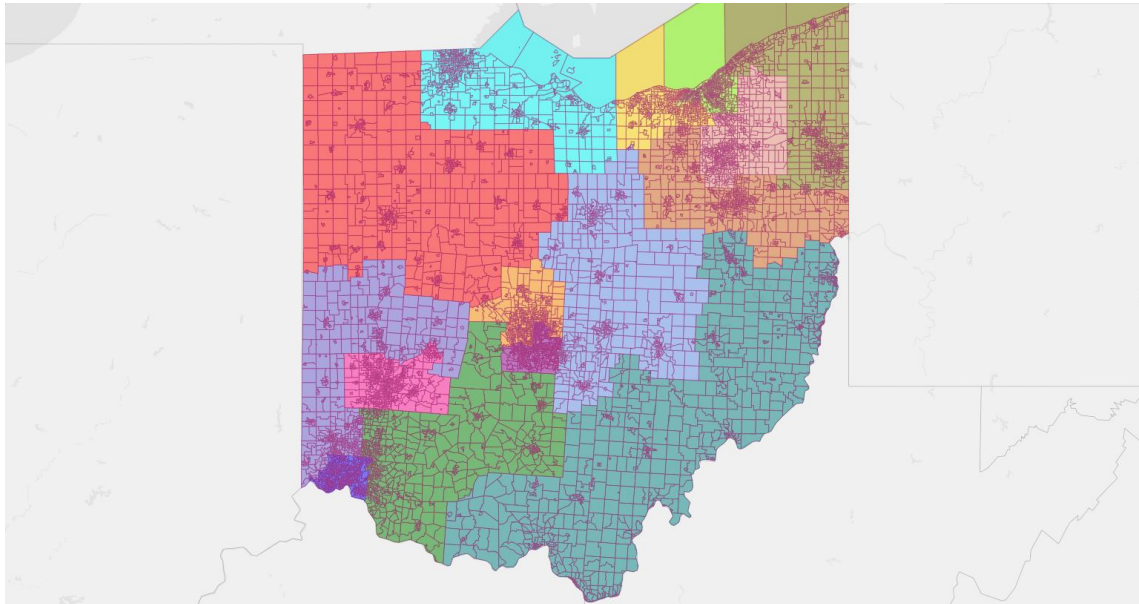
This map is so gerrymandered it isn't even worthy of comment. Again, it splits the minority population of Toledo into almost two equal groups and puts them into two different districts without shared interests and needs. The economic impact of Lake Erie on Toledo and the surrounding suburbs is important. We need someone to nurture and champion the opportunity to increase port volume due to COVID initiated supply chain issues and work closely with the Toledo Port Authority.

The time it took for paid legislators and contractors to make this map is another waste of taxpayer money in addition to dollars wasted defending lawsuits for gerrymandering that voters of Ohio told you NOT to do. This is an irresponsible and if anyone performed like this in any other work environment, they would be fired. I know there are more than a few attorneys in the legislature and I believe there is an attorney oath taken when admitted to the bar:

***“ATTORNEY’S OATH I, _____ do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitutions of the United States, and of this state; that I will honestly demean myself in the practice of law; that I will discharge my duties to my clients to the best of my ability; and that I will conduct myself with integrity and civility in dealing and communicating with the court and all parties. So help me God.*”**



My choice for a **FAIR** map and this was completed by someone who doesn't even live in the area and has no skin in Ohio's game. Just an American patriot who took democracy seriously and spent **unpaid** time to develop a map compliant with the Voters Act and an honest attempt to eliminate gerrymandering as mandated by the vote of **over 70% of Ohioans**.



The map speaks exceptionally well to proportionality, splitting, compactness and minority representation.

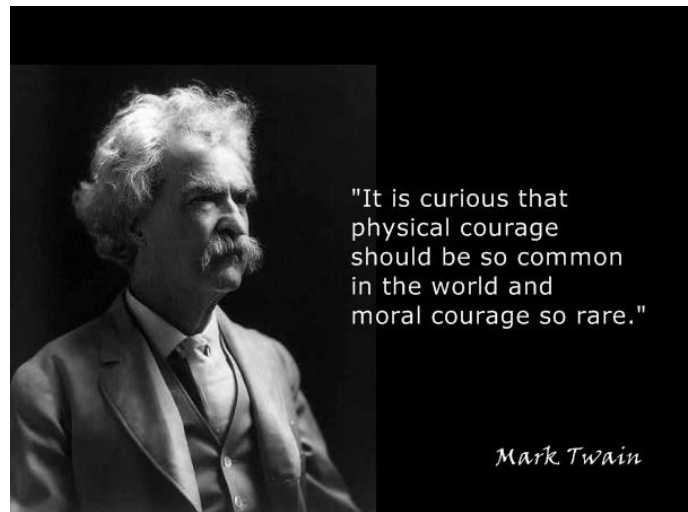
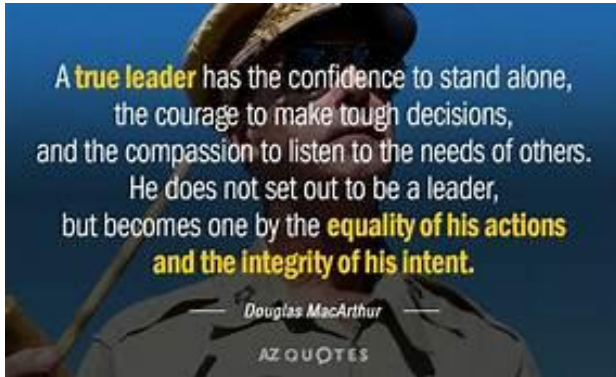
“Compact districts aren’t always fair. To the extent that a state's political geography has a significant urban-rural political divide, maps with more compact districts tend to be less proportional, and maps that are more proportional tend to have less compact districts.” Dave’s redistricting map.

I do not want to close without commenting specifically on your decision to gerrymander away the 9th district held for 32 years by Marcy Kaptur is needlessly mean-spirited. She has been overwhelmingly re-elected to her seat signaling strong approval by her constituents.

She has been a leading advocate for veteran affairs for ALL Ohioans. She shepherded the legislation to begin the Honor Flights for WWII veterans to Washington, DC. among many other accomplishments. She is well known for being a kind and civil public servant. This gerrymandered move to deliberately end a record breaking tenure for a female politician in Ohio on such a sour note is disgraceful.

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Ohio Congressional District #44



And, while I have your attention, please read the following with this thought in mind:

To fail to take into account the Voting Right Act and historic events that shape the present, denies equal opportunity to all Ohioans who are eligible to vote.

In Ohio, the geographical landscape has minority voters, often minorities and Democrats, clustered in urban areas while voters who are typically white and Republican, dominate in rural areas. This Ohio trait gives an out-sized voice to rural voters in elections just because of a geographical happenstance. The "efficiency gap" or "wasted vote phenomenon". Is this fair? People chose where they want to live.

But where minority voters live in Ohio and many northern states is not happenstance. In Ohio, two cities have a Black population of greater than 40 percent (Maple Heights and Wilberforce). In Alabama, **120** cities have a Black population of **44-96%** including the teeming metropolis' of Lower Peach Tree, AL (pop 961) and Leroy, AL (pop. 1,067).

Only 1/88 counties in Ohio have a black population of 30%, while 27/67 counties in Alabama have a Black population of at least 30% and eight have a Black population of 65% or more.

Why? Because Blacks migrated north to urban areas for a more hospitable environment and manufacturing jobs jobs. From 1915-1970 **6 million** fled the south along three specific train routes to leave the area.

Why? Because they were seeking a better life away from a Jim Crow south with limited opportunities for social and economic aspirations.

Why were Jim Crow laws present in the south? Because of the collapse of Reconstruction by a deal made by Rutherford B. Hayes was to secure the presidency.

Why was there a Reconstruction era? Because the South had lost the Civil War that cost over 618,000 lives in total.

Why was there a Civil War? Because 11 states seceded from the Union over the issue of slavery.

Anyone who thinks Black voters simply prefer urban areas and spurn small cities and rural areas should rethink the premise. ***To fail to take into account historic events that shape the present denies equal opportunity for all Ohioans eligible to vote.***

<https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/ohio/black-population-percentage#chart>

<http://zipatlas.com/us/oh/city-comparison/percentage-black-population.htm>