

Republicans have violated our state constitution. A decade ago, we voted for a fair and equitable process of drawing new congressional maps. In the most recent proposals, there was blatant disregard for the will of the people. If done fairly, there should be seven Democratic seats and eight Republican. We reject packing of voters of color in order to diminish their influence. Also, breaking districts apart renders the same results. There should be a joint committee to evaluate congressional maps. Why are Republicans holding separate hearings simultaneously? How can people testify at both hearings? But then, that is the point, isn't it? How corrupt. There should be no more than 55% Republican seats. Using the gerrymandered maps, Republicans somehow hold 75% of congressional seats. And with the newly drawn maps, it becomes 87%. We are a democracy, and we reject the minority rule being forced on Americans in red states. We've had some of the most corrupt and inappropriate legislation, against the will of the majority, under these circumstances. Downtown Columbus should not be drawn into the same district as rural Lima. Toledo, Akron, and Dayton should all be kept whole, each in their separate districts. Latino and black voters are packed into just one district in Cuyahoga County. Asians and Pacific Islanders are split into separate districts. This injustice is exactly why we need reform. We are tired of the GOP ignoring the will of the people. The proposed maps do not reflect the state's partisan makeup. The ninth district (the snake on the lake) traverses Cleveland and Toledo, stretching 100 miles. Representative Marcy Kaptur has always had the best interest of her constituents at heart. But this ridiculously drawn district makes that extremely difficult for her. We need more like her. Unfortunately we won't find that kind of integrity in the GOP.