

November 7, 2021

Ohio Senate Local Government & Elections Committee Members:

My name is Anne Light Hoke. I currently live in District 3 on the east side of Columbus in Precinct 27-A. I live on Mayfair Blvd., Cols, Ohio 43213.

The Senate Map in SB 258 moves me from District 3, a compact urban district which represents Columbus & Franklin County, to District 15, a sprawling, mostly rural district. District 15 represents a sliver of east Columbus/Franklin County, Fairfield, Perry, Hocking, Athens, Vinton, Meigs, Jackson, Galia, Lawrence, & parts of Pike & Washington Counties.

The new District 15 is not a compact district. For example, Ironton in Lawrence County is approximately 116 miles from Columbus. New Lexington in Perry County is approximately 55 miles from Columbus. New Lexington is approximately 102.2 miles from Ironton as the crow flies, but to drive there on the fastest route, Ohio 93N, it takes 2 ½ hours.

Since I live in Columbus, I have urban concerns like public transportation, good libraries, clean unpolluted air, traffic congestion, electric charging stations, crime, open carry laws, and police brutality. Although I was born in a small town, I no longer have small town concerns like broadband access, access to sewer systems and water systems, burning trash regulations, and fracking.

I am a white person living in Precinct 27-A, District 3 which is approximately 70% African-American. The racial composition of the counties that I will be moved into are overwhelmingly white. So obviously, specific concerns of black people will be a minority interest unlike in current District 3 & might not be addressed.

For these reasons, I want to remain in District 3 or an equivalent urban district. Please vote against SB 258.