

Testimony of Geoffrey Sea to the Ohio House and Senate Committees on Congressional Redistricting

Regarding Senate Bill No. 237, Senate Bill No. 258, and House Bill Number No. 479

November 3, 2021

Very simply, I submit a proposed congressional redistricting map that I contend is far superior to the maps proposed by the Redistricting Committee, by any of the political parties, or by any third parties I have been able to review. My map was created on Districtr.org and can be viewed at:

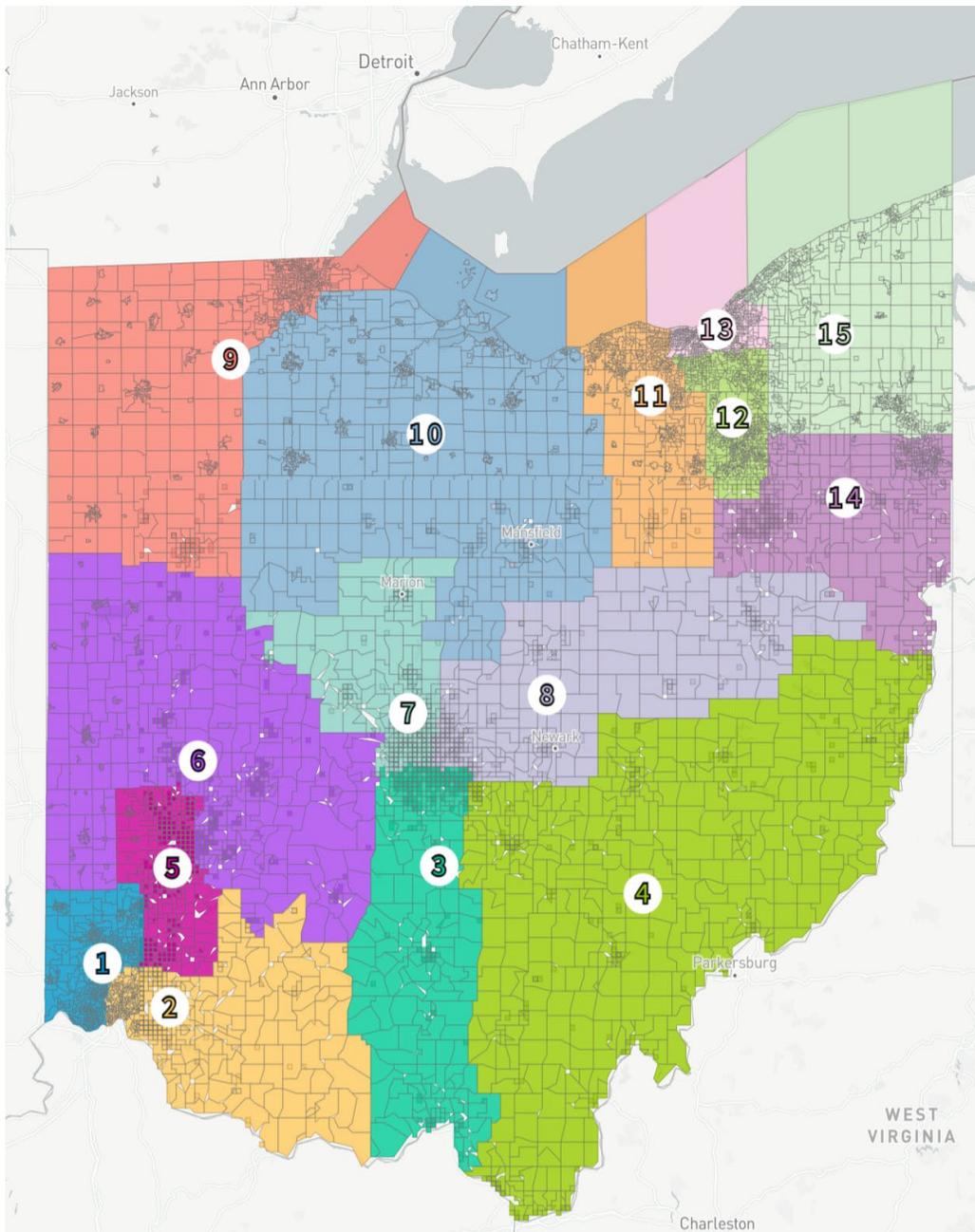
<https://districtr.org/plan/74693>

The reason for my map's superiority is that contrary to the political considerations of all the political parties, I created a map to maximize the number of competitive districts, while also aiming for compactness of districts, and adherence to county boundaries.

With my map, 9 of the 15 districts would be competitive between the two major parties, far more than with any alternative proposed map. Three districts would be likely Democratic and three would be likely Republican. Competitiveness, more than any other feature, would best serve the interests of Ohioans to insure the quality of campaigns, candidates, and office-holders. Ohio has suffered by having too many members of Congress, in both of the parties, who persist unchallenged in office, and who therefore feel no compunction to well-serve the broad spectrum of constituents.

My map would also put 76 of Ohio's 88 counties in a single congressional district. Eleven counties would be divided between two districts, and one county (Cuyahoga) would be divided between four districts. (Yet one congressional district, 13, would be entirely contained within Cuyahoga County.)

The compactness of the districts is readily apparent from the map:

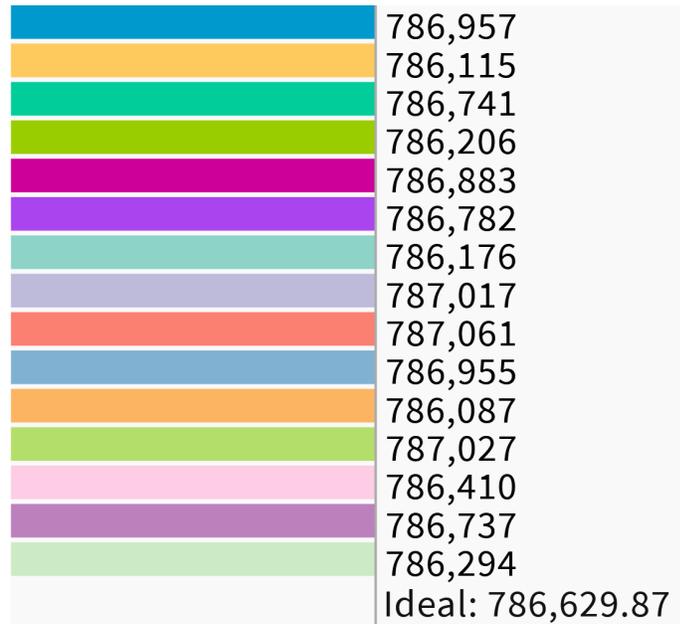


I have restored the original rationale for numbering by starting at the southwest corner and proceeding in rows from south to north. While the numbers could be changed, I believe it is best to disregard the current chaos in numbering and start fresh with an orderly system.

My districts are extremely close to parity in population, with a maximum population deviation of only 0.07%. My districts also are designed to preserve the integrity of many historic regions. For example, district 4 corresponds to the old Ohio Company tract. District 3 encompasses the entire Scioto Valley, otherwise known as the Route 23 corridor. District 5 unites the ancient sites of Sunwatch, Miamisburg, and Fort Ancient. District 9 encompasses the entire Maumee Valley. District 15 comprises the old

Western Reserve. Most of my districts include urban, suburban, and rural areas; this mix is intentional, to combat the increasing polarization of our politics.

Following are the population numbers for each of my districts:



Incumbent members of Congress may dislike my map because it intentionally neglects their fiefdoms and forces them to compete anew for turf. This is a good thing, because if there is any consensus in Ohio, it is that the current system is not working. The current system has promoted office-holders who play only to their respective bases and who are altogether too comfortable in their incumbency.

Do something for the people of Ohio. Shake things up with a radically new map.

(Details of the district boundaries are available either from Districtr.org or from the author.)

Respectfully submitted,

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