

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS - TESTIMONY Ohio House Oversight Committee Hearing

I am aghast at the mendacity of the ORC and Statehouse in their total disregard of the will of the voters of OH referring to the spirit & intent of the 2018 revision of the OH Constitution.

What is the rationale for splitting **Hamilton County** in three? This is the exact opposite of what Ohio voters in this county voted for when we passed the redistricting amendment in 2018. We expected to have one congressional representative elected from Hamilton County who could effectively advocate on our behalf in Congress. These proposed maps are a classic example of cracking voters for the sole purpose of preserving political power. This effort to dilute Democrats votes in Hamilton County is a direct violation of Article XIX, Section 2 of Ohio's Constitution.

Instead, Most of Hamilton County can remain Whole.

It is fair to combine Butler, Warren Clinton and other counties that have common issues and visions.

It is fair to combine Clermont County with Brown, Adams and other southern rural counties for the same reason.

It is fair to keep most of Hamilton County whole.

These proposed maps completely disenfranchise the people of Cincinnati, who just elected a largely Democratic city council(8 of 9 newly elected members) and Mayor by submerging our votes in three largely rural or suburban counties.

The Republican Congressional map is a disaster for Hamilton County and a disaster for Ohio:

Regarding transparency, the only thing transparent about the proposed House and Senate maps is that the new districts REMOVE the votes and voices of the people of Cincinnati.

That was not an accident!

These maps are a recipe for corruption. When one party monopolizes political power in a district, funders know where to funnel money. Note the recent nuclear power scandals and the buying of state senators' votes. While fairness standards should apply to all parties, this example happens to be created by the same party in Ohio that accepted \$60 million in bribes from an energy company in return for a \$1.5 billion bailout vote.

The Ohio Redistricting Commission and General Assembly are pretending to run a kingdom. Why else would Republican members feel unencumbered by the state Constitution and the will of 74.8 percent of Ohio voters in trying to grab all possible power?

The authors of the proposed maps display a lame and insulting example of a Congressional district map that is the opposite of what was called for by voters of all parties, and by the Ohio Constitution.

It's bad enough that the district maps also violated the clause to not favor any party and thus end up in lawsuits, but this second example shows more willful disregard for Ohioans.

**THIS IS THE REAL STEAL!**

The ORC Statehouse map makers continue to earn our distrust.  
You are canceling Ohio voters and creating truly stolen elections.

Our democracy is dying because of gerrymandering like this!!!

These proposed maps are another effort to tender an alternative plan to yet again eviscerate the safeguards against gerrymandering. If these maps stand, Ohio elections will be a charade!

