

[Xenia, Ohio, 11/4/21] In 2015 and 2018, Ohioans across all 88 counties voted for creating a fair and transparent system for redrawing our heavily gerrymandered district lines. We expected honesty and swift action from our lawmakers, but that is not what our lawmakers have given us so far.

I live in a predominantly white, conservative rural community, yet the people elected to represent my community also represent parts of Dayton. Dayton, one of largest cities in Ohio, does not anchor its own district but is instead packed and cracked into the surrounding predominantly conservative area as a means of weakening Dayton's voting power. The maps and ideas I have seen thrown around by certain members of our legislature would only exacerbate the issue and weaken some communities even further.

The laws we've seen pushed by Republicans so far this year, including my own State Representative, has only served to highlight the critical need for fair maps and fair representation in this state. From blatant attempts to restrict voting rights to our school board's recent decision to repeal an anti-racism measure (with no pushback from our lawmakers), it is clear that the elected officials in this state do NOT represent the majority of Ohioans. The majority of Ohioans support some form of gun control, abortion rights, and climate action - and we need lawmakers and maps who will truly reflect that.

Ohioans deserve this. We did the legwork in 2015 and 2018; now it's time for our lawmakers to uphold their end of the bargain. A fair map will include at least 6 Democratic seats and 2 toss up seats (with a *maximum* of 7 Republican seats). Ohioans will continue to watch this situation closely. We expect to see maps that truly reflect the way that Ohioans vote, and that keep communities together rather than cracking them apart to fit the needs of one political party or another.

Thank you.