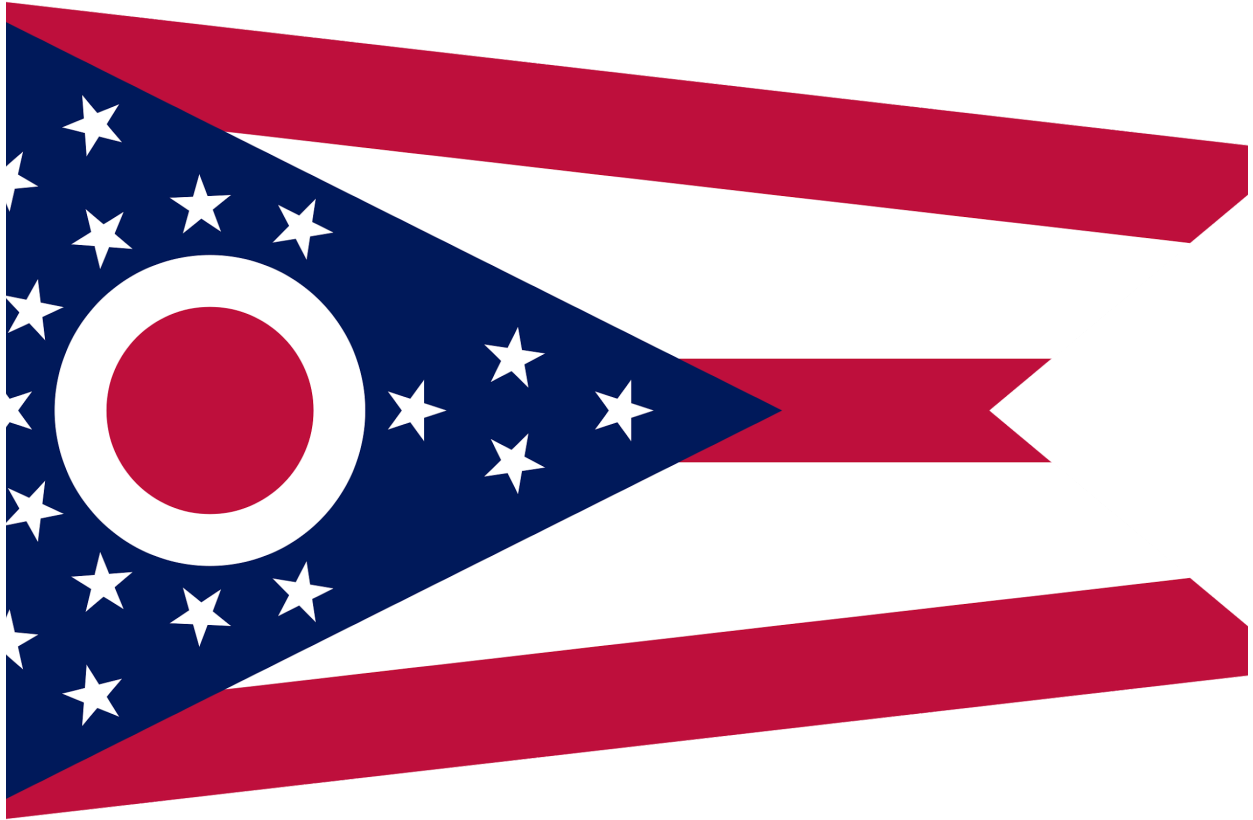


Narrative Contestant Paul Nieves

Link to 2nd place map created by Paul Nieves:

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/824d95df-0cf0-4e78-a7f6-641baeebbcbf>



Fair Districts Ohio - Congressional Mapping Competition

09.13.2021

Overview

My goal in drawing up Ohio's Congressional Districts was to create a proportional map with minimal partisan bias to the extent Ohio law, and the state's political geography would allow. What you'll notice is that this plan has negligible partisan bias, meaning that it doesn't favor any party, according to the analytical measurements utilized in Dave's Redistricting App. The analysis section is broken up into 5 categories that measure fairness. Also, The map's population deviation is within the legally acceptable range and incumbency wasn't considered. This narrative will detail how my map plan encompasses a balance of compact, fair districts that ensures competitiveness, and protection of communities of interest (COI), including minority groups, with minimal county splitting.

Analysis

I. Partisan Fairness/Proportionality

Both the Partisan and Turnout Biases are effectively 0, and the map's other Bias Measures indicate that this map doesn't favor one party or the other. This helps contend with the state's Geography Bias which hurts Democrats. A perfectly proportional map would have 7 districts for Democrats. However, the state's political geography benefits Republicans, virtually yielding them an extra district/seat.

Partisan Bias	-.04%
Turnout Bias	-.05%
Votes Bias	-.59%

Seats Bias	-1.48%
Efficiency Gap	1.70%

II. Competitiveness

There are multiple competitive districts across the state that are likely to remain competitive throughout the decade even with current trends. Districts 4, 9, & 13 have similar partisan leanings; their composite scores average to 3.3% in Democrats' favor. Districts 10, 12, and 14, have slightly stronger partisan leanings, however none are more than 7.4%. This is accomplished via a combination of large and small cities in their respective regions. For example, Toledo and other small cities throughout the Lake Plains in the 9th, Dayton and Springfield in the 10th, and the Youngstown and Warren areas in the 14th, keep these districts competitive even as other parts of the district trend Republican.

On the other side of the spectrum, Morrow County helps to keep the 12th district competitive, as the rest of the district trends towards Democrats, while also keeping the district from dividing another county.

Furthermore, the 10th becomes a bellwether district, meaning that its partisanship, based on the composite score, which includes Pres 2016, 2020, Sen. 2016, 2018, Gov. 2018, & Att. Gen. 2018 election results, lines up exactly with the statewide composite score.

III. Compactness/Splitting

These districts are visibly compact, certainly contrasting with the current map. Its Polsby-Popper Score is 0.4114, and many districts have higher individual scores. Most of the oddly shaped district lines are due to the state's boundaries such as the Ohio River and the Lake Erie shoreline, or municipal boundaries like those of Cleveland.

Only 12 counties are split and no county is split more than once. Columbus, being more populous than a district's ideal population, is the only major municipality split, and is in accordance with Ohio Constitution Article XIX, Section 2, Division (C)(2). There are a few other municipal splits, like Bellfontaine and Salem, but these cities traverse multiple townships. The only other noticeable split is in Clermont County's Union township, which still follows the Withamsville boundary. Additionally, there's minimal cracking or packing, which may be obvious, but is also evident from the map's Declination of 62°.

IV. Minority Representation

The 11th can still elect a Black Congressperson with a plurality Black Voting Age Population (VAP). The 3rd is now plurality White, and although it retains a mostly White VAP, it elected a Black Representative when the district had a larger White VAP in 2012. Cincinnati's Black communities are kept within the 1st district, which slightly increases the district's Black VAP.

V. Communities of Interest

Finally, these districts follow regional boundaries to the extent practicable, with the most consistent boundaries being Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), as per the Census. Other aspects used to determine COIs included: Fair Districts Ohio Community Maps, geographic regions, media markets, connectedness (major roadways), and some areas, as defined by the League of Women Voters®, with "shared socio-economic, ethnic, geographic" interests.

Trying to adhere to all of this criteria can be very challenging, but luckily many aspects overlap. For instance, most of the 14th district is comprised of the Ashtabula and Youngstown MSAs, which overlaps with the Youngstown Media Market. These areas have similar income levels, and main industries, manufacturing, healthcare, and retail, as well as a major roadway, Ohio State Route 11, which runs through it from one end to the other. Additionally, the

entire Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is in the district, according to the Ohio Department of Development.

Some larger districts must cross over into different regions. However, these districts have major highways that run straight through them, like the 15th, which connects Cambridge and Zanesville to the Columbus suburbs and exurbs via I-70.

While these are but two examples, all of the districts adhere to these criteria to the greatest extent practicable.

Summary

Overall, my district plan: is proportional, compact, and respects communities of interest, and creates new competitive districts throughout the state.

Districts Overview - Below is a brief description of each district

1. A Democratic leaning district in Hamilton County that keeps Cincinnati whole and splits no municipalities.
2. A solidly Republican Southern Ohio district including the counties of: Adams, Athens, Brown, Clermont (part), Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking (part), Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton.
3. A solidly Democratic district, which is now a plurality White in Franklin County that more neatly respects municipalities.
4. A competitive district in the Cleveland CSA Counties include: Cuyahoga (part) and Lorain (part).
5. A large rural Western Ohio district that keeps its small cities together. The most Republican leaning district. Counties include: Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Clare (part), Darke, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Logan (part), Mercer, Miami, Paulding, Preble, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert, and Williams.
6. A solidly Republican, primarily Appalachian district. Counties include: Carroll, Columbiana (part), Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne (part).

7. A solidly Republican North Central Ohio district that takes in its small cities. Counties include: Ashland, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Huron, Logan (part), Lorain (part), Marion, Medina, Richland, Seneca (part), Union, Wayne (part), Wyandot.
8. A solidly Republican suburban and exurban district in Cincinnati MSA. Counties include: Butler, Clermont (part), Hamilton (part), and Warren.
9. A competitive Lake Plains district mostly in the Toledo MSA. Counties include: Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca (part), and Wood.
10. A competitive district mostly in the Dayton MSA. Counties include: Clark (part), Greene, and Montgomery.
11. A plurality Black district kept in Cuyahoga County. The most Democratic leaning district. Splits no municipalities.
12. An urban/suburban, Democratic trending competitive district in the Columbus MSA. Counties include Delaware, Franklin (part), and Morrow.
13. A competitive Northeast Ohio district mostly in Akron MSA. Counties include: Geauga (part), Portage, and Summit.
14. Another competitive Northeast Ohio district that's trending Republican. Counties include: Ashtabula, Columbiana (part), Geauga (part), Lake, Mahoning, and Trumbull.
15. A solidly Republican suburban/exurban district mostly in Columbus MSA that takes in smaller cities heading west toward the Ohio River. Counties include: Belmont, Coshocton, Hocking (part), Fairfield, Guernsey, Knox, Licking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington.

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