

Redistricting Letters to the Editor

LTE tool: www.commoncause.org/ohiomapslte/

Letter to the Editor: 7/12/21 [NOTE: Cleveland.com asked for exclusive rights to this letter, so please do not copy exactly! Fine to use for inspiration.]

With the 2020 Census now complete, Ohio must begin the process of redrawing the maps that will determine the congressional, statewide, and local districts for the next decade. We need to be sure that the process of drawing districts is fair, transparent, nondiscriminatory, politically impartial, and ready before the 2022 elections for both state legislative and congressional districts. That's what Ohioans demanded and expect.

Kathy Bultema,
Strongsville

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2021/07/ohioans-voted-twice-to-end-gerrymandering-time-to-make-it-happen.html>

Letter to the Editor 7/10/21

"Redistricting process needs to begin now"

The essential, critical groundwork needs to be done to prepare for and to set up a fair redistricting process. That's why Gov. DeWine needs to convene the commission as soon as possible so that its members can get to work preparing for the monumental task of drawing Ohio's new districts. There is no excuse to drag our feet — fair maps can't wait.

— Donna Plunkett, Canton

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/opinion/2021/07/10/letter-redistricting-process-needs-begin-now/7905038002/>

Letter to editor 6/30/21

Gerrymandering is cheating. That's not just my opinion. It is what Ohio voters have decided, voting with a 75% majority to reform congressional redistricting in 2018 and with a 71% majority to reform Ohio state legislature redistricting in 2015. Simplistically stated, the reform is that voters choose their politicians, not vice versa, that districts are structured so that extremists are less likely to prevail. Will the Ohio GOP honor the voters' intent?

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/30/opinion-honor-ohioans-wishes-gerrymandering-end-arm-teachers/7795664002/>

Letter to the editor: 6/17/21

"Governor should move on redistricting"

The public deserves to be able to easily weigh in on any new maps created. There is no excuse for foot-dragging — fair maps can't wait any longer. We want our voices heard!

https://www.crescent-news.com/letter-to-the-editor/article_03ec774f-faf4-5fde-8ac8-17055b901379.html

Letter to the Editor: 6/6/21

Ensure redistricting reform is enacted

Democracy works much better when voters choose their elected representatives, rather than the other way around. In order for us to accomplish this transition in Ohio, we must advocate that the reforms passed by more than 70 percent of voters — and passed in all 88 counties — are implemented as intended.

To learn more about 2021 redistricting process and how you can support the implementation of these reforms, please visit www.fairdistrictsohio.org.

KATHLEEN GAIGE

Voter Services Chair

League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown

Canfield

<https://www.tribtoday.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/06/ensure-redistricting-reform-is-enacted/>

Letter to the editor: 6/5/21

At the state level, we have a severely gerrymandered 2011 congressional district map, contrived in a black box by a majority party. With Issue 1, Ohio voters said “no more” in 2018; now a bipartisan process is required, with transparency and strict accountability guidelines to map-drawing. And rules that include the public in the process with Sunshine Laws, public testimony and participation in map-drawing competition.

Legal deadlines are pressuring all levels of government dealing with delayed census data release, which makes it even more important they are scrutinized in their processes. Statewide, voters are empowered to speak out to the Ohio General Assembly with pleas to make every sincere attempt to adjust the process within legal bounds while meeting deadlines and staying true to the intent of the Ohio constitutional amendment (Issue 1) that nearly 75% of voters passed in 2018.

Pat Simons, Hudson

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/05/opinion-call-ohio-voters-hudson-ceremony-map-process/7527947002/>

Letter to Editor: 5/16/21

Herein lie results of some of the worst gerrymandering in the United States. Among the impacts: Ohio’s decline in quality of life and attractiveness to individuals and corporations.

Harvey J. Graff,

Columbus

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2021/05/gop-lawmakers-spin-their-wheels-on-ideological-y-inspired-laws-hurting-ohio.html>

Letter to the Editor: 4/25/21

It's time for a fair redistricting process in Ohio

Help get rid of the “snake along the lake” and other unfair districts. Join the League of Women Voters and the Portage County NAACP on April 29 -- the People Powered Day of Action -- to

demand Fair Districts. You can participate by contacting your legislators and let them know you support democracy as it was intended in Ohio.

Debbie Barber, Kent LWV

April Secura, Northern Portage LWV

Dr. Geraldine Hayes-Nelson, Portage County NAACP

<https://www.record-courier.com/story/opinion/2021/04/25/letter-editor-its-time-fair-redistricting-process-ohio/7333882002/>

Letter to Editor 4/8/21

Ohio need not wait for Census data to begin the redistricting process. Nor should the new Census timeline be used as an excuse to limit transparency or reduce opportunities for public comment or testimony from experts

Beverly Masek

Strongsville

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2021/04/lay-groundwork-now-for-ohio-redistricting-transparency-fairness.html>

Letter to Editor 4/1/21

The Ohio Redistricting Commission should be forming now.

Census delays don't mean we don't need to get started. The task force needs to meet to address funding for state legislative and congressional mapmaking.

The state legislature needs to identify how public maps will be submitted. Both the state legislature and the Ohio Redistricting Commission could identify a public hearing schedule.

Ohio wants fair districts. Ohio wants fair elections.

Nancy Gurney

Lakeside

<https://sanduskyregister.com/news/312102/give-ohio-fair-districts-now/>

Letter to Editor: 3/31/21

"We need fair maps"

Ohio is badly gerrymandered. The district maps in Ohio, drawn in 2011 by the party in power, in secrecy, with no input from citizens, yielded 12 Republican districts and four Democratic districts. Since 2011, not a single Congressional district has changed hands no matter how qualified the challenger or unqualified the incumbent.

Predictable outcomes in elections leads to unresponsive elected officials. That is gerrymandering.

This year new district maps will be drawn according to new processes passed in Ohio in 2015 and 2018 by over 70 percent of Ohio voters. The new processes were approved in every county of Ohio. The Ohio Redistricting Commission, made up of seven persons, will draw new legislative maps and new rules will apply in the way new Congressional maps are drawn. Work in the state House needs to begin now. The Ohio Redistricting Commission should be forming now.

Census delays don't mean we don't need to get started. The task force needs to meet to address funding for state legislative and congressional mapmaking. The state legislature needs to identify how public maps will be submitted. Both the state legislature and the Ohio Redistricting Commission could identify a public hearing schedule.

You can affect the outcome by contacting your state representative and your state senator. Ohio wants districts that are compact and competitive. Ohio wants fair districts.

NANCY GURNEY

Lakeside, Ohio

<https://www.toledoblade.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/03/31/to-the-editor-immigrant-issues-not-new/stories/20210331027>

Letter to the editor: 3/30/21

Ohioans have a great opportunity this year to enhance our democracy through the redistricting process.

We all have a role to play to ensure that these processes adhere to the fairer methods demanded by voters. That starts with being informed about redistricting.

Please check out the web page <https://www.fairdistrictsohio.org/> to learn more about this important topic. Members of the Canton League of Women Voters are trained speakers who are available for groups who want to learn more about this important effort. We can speak by Zoom and hope to address in-person gatherings later. Here's the link to request a speaker:

bit.ly/FairDistrictsRequest.

Please help us hold our legislators accountable.

— Carol Canavan and Amy Shriver Dreussi, co-presidents, Canton Area League of Women Voters

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/opinion/2021/03/30/letter-canton-area-league-women-voters-concerned-redistricting/7011927002/>

Letter to Editor: 2/28/21

The way our districts are drawn has a major impact on the strength of our democracy.

Fair districts ensure that voters' voices are heard and that our elected officials are accountable to their constituents.

We need to create districts at every level that allow Ohioans to be heard. Districts that are barely congruent and divide our state's counties and regions serve politicians, not voters. This should not be a partisan issue. We all should stand for districts that encourage competition, accountability and fair representation; they are what foster a vibrant democracy.

TOM SHAY

Leavittsburg

<https://www.tribtoday.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2021/02/redistricting-should-serve-voters-not-politicians/>

Letter to the Editor: 2/23/21

Are the boundaries of the 7th U.S. Congressional District the result of gerrymandering? If so, are the results of the 2020 election in the 7th District the result of political manipulation? Were the voices of many of the citizens of Canton silenced by political skulduggery?

JAMES L. DIERINGER, NORTH CANTON

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/opinion/2021/02/23/letter-gerrymandering-created-7th-district/6752241002/>

Letter to the editor: 12/31/20

Term limits, gerrymandering have created an Ohio legislature that can't do its job

As a former member of the Ohio House, I suggest that the combination of term limits and shameless partisan redistricting makes it possible to serve in the legislature on a kind of automatic pilot, governed by outside interests instead of independent, fact-based judgment of Ohio's public interest.

Arthur V. N. Brooks, Cleveland Heights

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2020/12/term-limits-gerrymandering-have-created-an-ohio-legislature-that-cant-do-its-job.html>
