

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony pertaining to Ohio State Legislative redistricting to you. My name is Janis Baker. I vote in District 28 of the Ohio House of Representatives, and District 8 of the Ohio State Senate in Madeira, Ohio. I would like to draw your attention to the issue of ending gerrymandering to create a democracy where my voice can be heard as well as everyone in the state being equally represented.

In my neighborhood, I am represented by Representative Jessica Miranda and Senator Louis Blessing III. The shape of districts in my area separate neighborhoods where residents share environmental, economic and cultural values. This results in my neighborhood to the east side of Cincinnati being associated with a completely different area to the west of Cincinnati.

This effectively means that my environmental, cultural, health, and economic values are not fairly represented as the west side is a very different community. My community is essentially divided and diluted in representation. I feel separated from neighboring communities that I interact with socially, politically, and culturally.

I expect elected officials to fairly reflect the will of the voters and use the guidelines voted on for this redistricting cycle.

The consequence of not fixing this problem during the redistricting process is that representation is not on a level playing field. It creates the impression that there is a systematic undermining of the voice of the voters.

I ask you to please keep redistricting fair, transparent, and politically impartial. Please ensure that everyone's voices are included in this process. Keeping my community together will help to create a better Ohio. I demand that the mapmakers fulfill the promise of the redistricting reforms in the Ohio Constitution, and avoid false narratives and deadlines to undermine this process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Janis Baker

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August 23, 2021 at 1:55 p.m.