

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

**Bria Bennett, et al.,**

**Relators,**

**v.**

**Ohio Redistricting Commission, et al.,**

**Respondents.**

**Case No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Original Action Filed Pursuant to Ohio  
Constitution, Article XI, Section 9(A)

*[Apportionment Case Pursuant to S. Ct.  
Prac. R. 14.03]*

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**EXHIBITS TO RELATORS' COMPLAINT - VOLUME III**

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Abha Khanna (Pro Hac Vice Pending)  
Ben Stafford (Pro Hac Vice Pending)  
ELIAS LAW GROUP  
1700 Seventh Ave, Suite 2100  
Seattle, WA 98101  
akhanna@elias.law  
bstafford@elias.law  
T: (206) 656-0176  
F: (206) 656-0180

Dave Yost (0056290)  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
30 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
T: (614) 466-2872  
F: (614) 728-7592

*Counsel for Respondents*

Aria C. Branch (Pro Hac Vice Pending)  
Jyoti Jasrasaria (Pro Hac Vice Pending)  
Spencer W. Klein (Pro Hac Vice Pending)  
ELIAS LAW GROUP  
10 G St NE, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20002  
abranh@elias.law  
jjasrasaria@elias.law  
sklein@elias.law  
T: (202) 968-4490  
F: (202) 968-4498

Donald J. McTigue\* (0022849)  
*\*Counsel of Record*  
Derek S. Clinger (0092075)  
MCTIGUE & COLOMBO LLC  
545 East Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
dmctigue@electionlawgroup.com  
dclinger@electionlawgroup.com  
T: (614) 263-7000  
F: (614) 368-6961

*Counsel for Relators*

# **Exhibit 26**

TRANSCRIPTION OF AUDIO FILE  
OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP  
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 812  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 232-0646

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Good afternoon, ladies  
2 and gentlemen. Welcome to the regional hearing of  
3 the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

4 Before we begin our official business, we  
5 would really like to thank Washington Township and  
6 its staff for hosting us today. I would also like  
7 to note the presence of a few other members of the  
8 General Assembly that I have noted here.

9 Representative Tom Young, I believe we are in his  
10 House district right now. Representative --  
11 Representative Phil Plummer and Representative  
12 Rodney Creech are in the audience. We thank them  
13 for coming today to hear testimony as well.

14 At this time we will call the -- call to  
15 order the regional hearing. And if you want to  
16 testify and you have not already filled out a  
17 witness slip, there is a table out there. And we  
18 would ask you to do that and provide it to our  
19 staff so that we know that you're here and wish to  
20 testify.

21 We will now take attendance, and I will  
22 ask the staff to call the roll.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Co-Chair Senator  
24 Vernon Sykes?

25 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Present.

1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Co-Chair Speaker  
2 Robert Cupp?  
3 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Here.  
4 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Governor Mike  
5 DeWine?  
6 GOVERNOR DEWINE: Here.  
7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Auditor Keith Faber  
8 will be here momentarily.  
9 Designee for Senate President Matt  
10 Huffman, Senator Antani?  
11 SENATOR ANTANI: President.  
12 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Secretary of State,  
13 Frank LaRose?  
14 SECRETARY LAROSE: Here.  
15 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And Leader Emilia  
16 Sykes will be here momentarily.  
17 Speaker, a quorum is present.  
18 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. With the  
19 quorum being present, we will meet as a full  
20 commission. Does any member of the Commission  
21 have an opening statement before we begin the  
22 public testimony from those who are here?  
23 Chair recognizes Representative -- Chair  
24 recognizes Secretary of State, Frank LaRose.  
25 SECRETARY LAROSE: Thank you so much,

1 Chairman.

2 Mic on. All right. Thank you so much,  
3 Chairman.

4 And just wanted to maybe try to set the  
5 tone a little bit as we get started. I do -- as  
6 you have heard me say before -- some of my best  
7 thinking when I'm running. And so this morning I  
8 was running and reflecting on the fact that today  
9 is September 12th, a day that 20 years ago, for  
10 many of us, really came to symbolize coming  
11 together, focusing on the things that unite us and  
12 not the things that divide us.

13 And so my hope is, as we get started with  
14 this, that we can proceed in that spirit, that we  
15 can proceed in a spirit of civility, and in our  
16 own small way, work together to get something very  
17 good here accomplished for Ohio.

18 I want to thank the both Democratic and  
19 Republican staff members, who have been working  
20 hard over the weekend, as they have been working  
21 to try to find that consensus and middle ground  
22 between the different proposals that have been  
23 brought forward. And I appreciate the work  
24 sincerely that they're doing.

25 I said on Thursday -- and I still believe

1 -- that the map that was introduced on Thursday  
2 needs significant work. And so now is when that  
3 work can get done, and that's when that consensus  
4 building to get that work done can happen.

5 I look forward to hearing from the  
6 members of the public. And my hope is that we can  
7 do something today that's become too rare and that  
8 is have a civil and thoughtful conversation, a  
9 thoughtful conversation based on the proposed maps  
10 and the changes that people would like to see made  
11 to the maps.

12 I know that a lot of folks may not have  
13 liked the 2011 maps. I count myself among them,  
14 but the time for, you know, talking about it and  
15 rehashing some of that stuff is probably behind  
16 us. And I think it is time that we get down to  
17 the business of passing 2021 maps.

18 And so thank you, co-chairs, for the  
19 opportunity to say that, and I look forward to the  
20 conversation today.

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Thank you,  
22 Secretary LaRose. Anyone else have an opening  
23 comment? All right.

24 At this time then, the Commission will  
25 hear public testimony on the Commission plan that

1 was introduced on September 9, 2021, in accordance  
2 with commission rules in Article XI of the Ohio  
3 Constitution. These proceedings will be recorded  
4 and broadcast by the Ohio Channel so the Board and  
5 its deliberations may consider things here today,  
6 and the public has any opportunity to witness and  
7 hear what is -- occurs here today.

8 We ask that, again, the audience refrain  
9 from clapping or other loud noise out of respect  
10 for the witnesses and the persons watching the  
11 proceedings remotely. As Secretary LaRose said,  
12 let's have a civil discussion instead.

13 If you are here to -- I already mentioned  
14 this -- a member of the public may testify on the  
15 Commission's plan before the Commission for up to  
16 five minutes, subject to limitation by the co-  
17 chairs. I think we have about 50 witnesses maybe  
18 signed up today. So in order to conclude -- to  
19 give everybody who wants to testify an opportunity  
20 by the time the hearing is over, if -- we would  
21 like to kind of try very diligently to adhere to  
22 that.

23 We do have a timekeeper to give the  
24 witness an indication when their time is up, and  
25 we would also like to ask you to keep your

1 testimony, again, to the plan that's introduced or  
2 your thoughts about changes to that plan. And any  
3 specifics is what would be most helpful to the  
4 Commission.

5 So Representative -- excuse me. I've got  
6 representative on my mind today -- Senator Sykes  
7 and I will be switching off as we proceed through  
8 these witnesses.

9 We now begin with our first witness here  
10 today, and that is Dick Gunther. Mr. Gunther, if  
11 you would come forward.

12 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Good afternoon. I'm  
13 Richard Gunther, Professor of Political Science at  
14 Ohio State University, and I was one of the five  
15 negotiators who crafted the language that is now  
16 Article XI, which governs redistricting. I'm here  
17 in my capacity, both as a professional political  
18 scientist with experience in redistricting but  
19 also as a participant in the act of creating the  
20 laws that we are about to apply in drawing our  
21 district boundaries.

22 I would like to address several of the  
23 criteria set forth in the Constitution by the 2015  
24 reforms and the extent to which the map proposed  
25 by Ray DiRossi on behalf of the Republican House

1 and Senate caucuses meets those criteria.

2 The criteria set forth in the  
3 Constitution are, one, that districts have roughly  
4 equal population size.

5 Two, conformity with the Section 3 rules  
6 concerning the splitting of counties,  
7 municipalities, and townships.

8 Three, compliance with the rules set  
9 forth in Section 6(a) and 6(b), commonly referred  
10 to as the representational fairness criteria.

11 Four, compliance with the Voting Rights  
12 Act.

13 And five, compactness.

14 Now, all of these rules are important,  
15 but I'm going to focus my attention on compliance  
16 with the VRA and the rules set for in Section 6(a)  
17 and 6(b). Let me begin with what are commonly  
18 referred to as representational fairness criteria.  
19 That is what is set forth in Section 6.

20 Section 6 begins by stating, "The Ohio  
21 Redistricting Commission shall attempt to draw a  
22 General Assembly District Plan that meets all of  
23 the following standards. I'm going to stop here  
24 for one second to deal with that sentence.

25 Note that the Constitution does not state

1 that the Redistricting Commission can, may, or  
2 might attempt to meet these criteria. It says  
3 shall. It shall attempt to draw district  
4 boundaries that meet these criteria. This is not  
5 an option. Shall means shall, and in light of the  
6 discussion last Thursday of the status of Section  
7 6, it should be noted that the word aspirational  
8 appears nowhere in the Ohio Constitution.

9 Now, I should also point out that there  
10 are other sectors of the Constitution, such as  
11 Section 9, dealing with the Supreme Court's role  
12 in overseeing this process that deal very  
13 extensively with Section 6, as well as Section 8,  
14 which calls upon the members of the Redistricting  
15 Board to explain how they met the preferences of  
16 the voters of Ohio.

17 Now, what are these additional standards  
18 that Section 6 calls upon us to actually  
19 implement? Section 6(a) says, "No General  
20 Assembly District Plan shall be drawn primarily to  
21 favor or disfavor a political party." Section  
22 6(b) makes it quite clear what not favoring a  
23 party means. "The statewide proportion of  
24 districts whose voters, based on statewide state  
25 and federal partisan general election results

1 during the last ten years, favor each political  
2 party shall correspond closely to the statewide  
3 preferences of the voters of Ohio."

4 Now, how do we translate that into  
5 numbers for this redistricting round? In the five  
6 general elections that have taken place over the  
7 past decade, Republican candidates for President,  
8 U.S. Senator, Governor, Secretary of State,  
9 Auditor, Attorney General, and Treasurer have  
10 received 54.2 percent of the votes cast by Ohio  
11 voters, while the Democratic candidates for those  
12 offices have received 45.8 percent of the votes.

13 To ensure that one political party is not  
14 unduly favored over another, the partisan makeup  
15 of Ohio's districts should mirror these partisan  
16 preferences of Ohio voters, that is, for the  
17 House, the statewide map should include  
18 approximately 54 districts whose voters lean  
19 towards the Republican Party -- to be precise,  
20 that is 54.5 percent -- and 45 that lean towards  
21 the Democratic Party -- which is 45.5 percent.

22 How does the DiRossi proposal stack up  
23 against this standard? It would have 67 districts  
24 Republican and 32 districts leaning towards the  
25 Democrats. This is even more unfair than our

1 current map, and the Senate map is still worse.  
2 It would create 25 Republican districts and only 8  
3 Democratic leaners.

4 In short, it unduly favors one political  
5 party and is flagrantly unconstitutional. The  
6 shortcomings of the DiRossi plan go beyond these  
7 highly biased partisan outcomes. In response to a  
8 question from a member of the Commission, DiRossi  
9 stated last week that the drawing of this map did  
10 not include an assessment of the extent to which  
11 the partisan tilt of the districts did or did not  
12 "correspond closely to the statewide preferences  
13 of the voters of Ohio."

14 And since it did not even examine these  
15 data, it certainly violated the requirement of  
16 meeting these criteria.

17 I will skip over my comments about the  
18 VRA, since my time has expired, but I would like  
19 to point out that in 2015, the amendments to the  
20 Ohio Constitution that bring about restricting  
21 reform and that will affect what we do here today  
22 were endorsed by an overwhelming majority of both  
23 houses of the General Assembly and by over 70  
24 percent of the Ohio voters.

25 And they were cosponsored by prominent

1 members of this Commission. I am hopeful that the  
2 Ohio Redistricting Commission will reach a  
3 bipartisan consensus and adopt district boundaries  
4 for the Ohio House and Senate in a manner that  
5 respects both the letter and the spirit of those  
6 reforms. Are there any questions?

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Any questions for  
8 Professor Gunther?  
9 Senator Antani.

10 SENATOR ANTANI: Is it working now?  
11 Hello? Test, test? Can you hear me? Well, thank  
12 you, Professor. The first thing I would say is I  
13 very much enjoyed your comparative politics class  
14 circa 2011.

15 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Thank you.

16 SENATOR ANTANI: I think I passed it. So  
17 good to see you. What data was used for you in  
18 order to come up with the statistics you provided?  
19 You said Dave's Redistricting app. Is that where  
20 you --

21 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Yeah. Those data  
22 came directly from the website of the Secretary of  
23 State of Ohio.

24 SENATOR ANTANI: But in so far as  
25 estimating that it would create the 67 Republican

1 districts and the 32 Democratic districts.

2 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Oh. I'm sorry. I  
3 apologize. That came from a commonly-used app,  
4 which is called Dave's Redistricting, and in the  
5 absence of other data, this is what we relied  
6 upon.

7 Now, I recognize that that is not the  
8 full basis of five elections that are required  
9 according to the Constitution, but we don't have  
10 the data from the Republican map that we could use  
11 to address that question. So this is a close  
12 approximation.

13 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman?

14 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Proceed.

15 SENATOR ANTANI: And so do we know how  
16 Dave's Redistricting app calculates that data?  
17 Because as you know, you know, in each election,  
18 there are likely Democratic voters, likely  
19 Republican voters, and then swing voters.

20 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Right.

21 SENATOR ANTANI: And so, you know, in  
22 order to come up with a hard number and say  
23 exactly 67 and exactly -- I lost your numbers here  
24 -- 32 for the House, you know, I'm curious, do we  
25 know what the Dave's Redistricting app uses in

1 order to get to that number?

2 Because an election for Governor -- my  
3 friend the Governor is here -- is very different.  
4 I ran for the State Senate. I just -- I simply am  
5 not as well known as the Governor. As much as I  
6 would like to be, I am not. And so, you know,  
7 those elections are very different. So do we know  
8 what party data they use?

9 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: I perfectly agree  
10 with you that this is an imprecise data set, and  
11 it could be 69. It could be 65. But what we do  
12 know is that this is roughly in accord with a  
13 number of maps that were using the same database,  
14 and this is a widely-respected nationwide dataset.

15 So it is not precise, and I will  
16 certainly not assume that this is exact. And your  
17 question is well taken.

18 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you, Professor.

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Further questions?

20 Secretary LaRose.

21 SECRETARY LAROSE: Thank you. Thank you,  
22 Co-Chair, and Professor Gunther. Thank you for  
23 being here.

24 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Thank you.

25 SECRETARY LAROSE: And I appreciate your

1 testimony. My question sort of follows on from my  
2 friend, Senator Antani, and goes to the question  
3 of when does a district become a Republican  
4 district and when does it become a Democratic  
5 district? And I think that, you know, for some,  
6 there's been sort of a very simple if it goes over  
7 50.0001, then it is, you know, an R or D.

8 I think that -- I think we all recognize  
9 that that's a fiction, right. Because candidates  
10 matter, campaign matter, fundraising matters, door  
11 knocking matters. All those things that  
12 candidates do matters.

13 And I, for one, when I ran in 2010, I won  
14 in a district that people said was unwinnable. It  
15 was a 46 Republican index district, and I was able  
16 to outperform that and still win. It seems to me  
17 like a better way to approach this question of  
18 proportionality that's contained in the  
19 Constitution would be to pick a number where we  
20 consider competitive districts.

21 Forty-eight to fifty-two could be that.  
22 I don't know what it is. Forty-eight to fifty-  
23 two, sort of in my mind, is a definition swing or  
24 competitive district, and then take those  
25 competitive districts off the table for that

1 calculation and say, okay, those are competitive,  
2 by definition. Go compete, win them, whatever.

3 And then among the remaining districts,  
4 you have what you would call maybe a safe  
5 district, and some of those are safe Republican  
6 districts. Some of those are safe Democratic  
7 districts. It would seem to me that where that  
8 proportionality -- and I will just, you know, for  
9 the purpose of argument go with your numbers of 45  
10 percent Democratic and 54 percent Republican --  
11 that that percentage should be adhered to among  
12 the safe districts, excluding the competitive  
13 districts. Would that rationale work in your  
14 mind?

15 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Yes. I mean, these  
16 are approximate figures. They are a baseline that  
17 we can use for judging the fairness of a map.  
18 They're not precise. In fact, on Tuesday morning,  
19 I will be presenting a map that does, in fact,  
20 give you very, very precise numbers on how to  
21 break this down. That will be the map set forth  
22 by the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

23 And in this particular moment, what I can  
24 simply say is that it is not as precise as we  
25 would like, but at the same time, I want to point

1 out one thing. This is not an election we're  
2 talking about. The voters haven't voted yet.  
3 What we're talking about is what the territory of  
4 units they represent will be.

5 And there's certainly plenty of room for  
6 a good campaign to lead to the victory of one  
7 party that doesn't fit with these predictions or a  
8 bad campaign leading to a disaster that doesn't  
9 show up in these numbers. We certainly would not  
10 want to prejudge how a campaign would actually  
11 reveal the qualities of candidates.

12 But I do think that competing on a level  
13 playing field is an important first step in  
14 guaranteeing the quality of democracy in Ohio, and  
15 that's what this is intended to do.

16 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Any further questions?  
17 Thank you.

18 PROFESSOR GUNTHER: Thank you very much.

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: That actually made a very  
20 informative exchange, and we appreciate that.

21 (Applauds)

22 All right. Please, let's not do that.  
23 We can all listen. We can applaud in our mind.  
24 Let's not get into that. This was a wonderful  
25 discussion. Let's just continue in that regard.

1 I would note for the record that Minority  
2 Leader Emilia Sykes is here, as well as Auditor of  
3 State Keith Faber.

4 Our next witness is Dr. Derrick Forward.  
5 Dr. Forward, come forward.

6 DR. FORWARD: Co-Chairs, Representatives,  
7 Senators, Governor, my name is Dr. Derrick L.  
8 Forward, President of the NAACP here in Dayton,  
9 Ohio and Vice President of the NAACP for the state  
10 of Ohio, the great Buckeye state of Ohio.

11 I didn't think that I was going to be  
12 here today from testifying a few weeks ago, but it  
13 seems that, as we take a look at the first  
14 proposed map, that I'm back. So as we take a  
15 look, you know, NAACP -- I want to read this one  
16 more time. I think I read this at the first  
17 hearing.

18 But from a voting rights standpoint, we  
19 say that the voting rights and political  
20 representation protect and enhance the voting  
21 rights and fair representation. Every American  
22 will have a free, open, equal, and protected  
23 access to the vote, and fair representation at all  
24 levels of the political process.

25 By protecting democracy, enhancing

1 equality, and increasing democratic participation  
2 in civic engagement, African-Americans will be  
3 proportionately elected to political office and be  
4 represented thereafter.

5           As I take a look at the composition of  
6 the Board, I know that -- Rep. Antani, I know  
7 you're a life member of the NAACP. I know  
8 Secretary of State is a life member of the NAACP.  
9 And if we are life members of this prestigious  
10 112-year organization, then we need to make  
11 certain that we are adhering to what it is about  
12 fairness as relates to the democratic process.  
13 And I know that Rep. Sykes is also a life member.

14           In 2015 and 2018, Ohio voters  
15 overwhelmingly voted to pass reform measures after  
16 the 2010 redistricting cycle, demanding a fair  
17 process and responsive elected officials. These  
18 maps and the process to date failed to meet the  
19 promise of the reform measures and ignore our  
20 state constitution, which are the absolute floor  
21 of fairness.

22           The draft Ohio Redistricting Commission  
23 map that was adopted Thursday were adopted based  
24 on a 5-2 vote along party lines, and as many of  
25 you know, as members of the NAACP, we're

1 nonpartisan. We're a nonpartisan organization.

2 This does not bode well with the process  
3 that was designed to be bipartisan. For the past  
4 decade, Ohio has lived under some of the most  
5 gerrymandered district in the country, but the  
6 bipartisan breakdown of the Ohio Redistricting  
7 Commission's proposed maps is even worse.

8 These GOP-proposed maps do not reflect  
9 the state's partisan makeup and would likely give  
10 the GOP another decade of supermajorities in the  
11 chambers. Despite the fact that Republicans have  
12 won roughly 55 percent of the statewide share of  
13 voters across the last decade, the GOP-proposed  
14 maps would give Republicans 66 percent of the  
15 House and Senate seats.

16 The proposed state legislative maps fail  
17 to uphold even the most basic tenants of a fair  
18 map and representative fairness. Number one, they  
19 crack communities of interest.

20 Number two, they dilute the political  
21 power of communities of color, of which I'm from.

22 And number three, they are not  
23 representative of the state as a whole.

24 The GOP-proposed maps crack and pack  
25 Ohio's communities of color, diluting the power of

1 the vote and denying them from adequate  
2 representation. If we think about our 3rd  
3 congressional district, he has been in office for  
4 over -- well, close to 20 years, 2 decades.

5 For example, the proposed Senate maps  
6 draws the black communities in and around Dayton  
7 together with white rural Preble and Darke and  
8 Miami Counties, rather than connecting to similar  
9 communities in Jefferson Township in Montgomery  
10 County, where I'm from. So there was  
11 representation -- when I grew up in Jefferson  
12 Township, we had representation, but that  
13 representation is gone due to the way the last map  
14 was created.

15 Another example is black voters who live  
16 in Trotwood should not be cracked apart from other  
17 black communities in Dayton into a different  
18 district. A fair map would ensure that those  
19 communities are kept together to create a pathway  
20 to real representation.

21 So what are we talking about? When you  
22 all created -- when the Commission created the  
23 maps 10 years ago, you all created a whole new  
24 district, a district number that came from  
25 somewhere else.

1           And what did it do? It went to Preble  
2 County, where basically I worked. So I kind of  
3 know the community. I know the community real  
4 well, and that seat was lost. So the individual  
5 who represented me at the time, his district was  
6 taken out of the communities of color.

7           Ohio map drawers must ensure that  
8 communities of color have adequate and real  
9 pathways to political representation. Yet, it  
10 appears that Republicans on the Commission are not  
11 planning on even trying to meet this obligation,  
12 and that's concerning, especially when you took  
13 out a life membership to the NAACP.

14           We have reports from the Ohio  
15 Redistricting Commission hearing on Thursday in  
16 Columbus that the GOP leadership have directed  
17 their map drawers to ignore racial demographic  
18 information in drawing their maps. Even worse,  
19 there are reports that they were instructed not to  
20 even consider federal and state standards of  
21 minority representation that ensure that the maps  
22 are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act, as  
23 the gentleman just stated a little while ago.

24           I find this hard to believe that  
25 something as fundamentally and essential, never

1 mind constitutionally required, is not being  
2 followed by this Commission. Ohio's African  
3 Americans and communities of color deserve to get  
4 the political representation they deserve. Fair  
5 redistricting does not require us to be  
6 colorblind.

7 Quite the opposite. Fair redistricting  
8 is in the identification and acknowledgement of  
9 how diverse our communities are. That requires  
10 that the maps you draw embrace representative  
11 fairness, which means exactly what it says. Maps  
12 should be fairly representative of the communities  
13 you serve.

14 A major responsibility of this commission  
15 is to develop district maps that are both  
16 responsive to and reflective of communities across  
17 Ohio. In 2021, map drawers should be drawing new  
18 districts that are not only representative of Ohio  
19 but are also responsive to the will of the Ohio  
20 voters. That means we shouldn't be adopting maps  
21 that look even worse than the current lopsided  
22 partisan nature of our current ones.

23 In conclusion, fair maps, like the ones  
24 that have been developed by the Ohio Citizens'  
25 Redistricting Commission reflect the partisan

1 makeup of our state. That would require a 54-to-  
2 44 percent split among House and Senate seats  
3 based on the election results over the past 10  
4 years. That translates into at least 44  
5 Democratic House seats out of 99 in the General  
6 Assembly and at least 15 Democratic Senate seats  
7 out of 33 in the Senate.

8 Adopting maps that reflect this  
9 representative fairness give communities of color  
10 a real pathway to representation. I understand  
11 that the staff of both sides of this Commission  
12 are working hard behind the scenes to come up with  
13 a revised map in the coming days before your  
14 September 15th deadline.

15 I hope that you will take heed to our  
16 concerns that have been raised today and adopt a  
17 fair and representative 10-year map that both  
18 Republicans and Democrats can fully embrace.

19 We don't want a four-year map. We want a  
20 10-year map that you all can work together on, and  
21 I know that you can make it happen. All it takes  
22 is a little faith, honesty, and integrity. Thank  
23 you. Any questions?

24 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you, Dr. Forward.

25 Are there any questions?

1 (Applauds)

2 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Please, let's not do  
3 that. Any questions? All right. Thanks very  
4 much for your helpful testimony.

5 DR. FORWARD: Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: We appreciate it.

7 DR. FORWARD: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

8 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Next witness is Elliot  
9 Archkin Herritan (phonetic), if I'm pronouncing  
10 that correctly. We will ask you to come forward  
11 and identify yourself for the record.

12 All right. All right. We will move on  
13 to the next one and go back just so we can use all  
14 our time.

15 Katie Barns (phonetic)? Welcome.

16 MS. BARNS: Good afternoon. On this  
17 recent anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we're  
18 engaged in examining the proposed Ohio voting  
19 district maps that have been submitted and  
20 approved by the Republican members of this  
21 Commission as their working drafts for this  
22 important work of redistricting.

23 Despite clear and unequivocal messages  
24 from Ohio voters from back in 2015, demanding that  
25 districts are proportionally fair, compact, and

1 include fair representation for Ohio's populations  
2 of color, the Republican members of this  
3 Commission have voted to instead accept these  
4 unconstitutional maps as their starting place.

5 How do you justify beginning this  
6 critically important process with seriously flawed  
7 maps that clearly do not meet the demands of Ohio  
8 voters for fair districts? How do you justify  
9 beginning with these flawed maps, considering the  
10 extremely tight timeline that you're working  
11 under?

12 Why aren't you beginning with carefully-  
13 developed maps that do meet the demands of Ohio  
14 voters? You have several maps available today  
15 that you could use as the starting basis for this  
16 process, maps that already comply with the mapping  
17 criteria in the Ohio Constitution.

18 You have fair maps available today that  
19 are clearly superior to the maps that have just  
20 been voted on by this Commission, maps that have  
21 been developed by citizens of Ohio, who were  
22 engaged in the mapmaking process. You have maps  
23 available today that have been carefully  
24 scrutinized and analyzed by the Advisory Committee  
25 for the State Legislative Mapping Competition that

1 do, in fact, meet the mapping criteria in the Ohio  
2 Constitution.

3           You have these constitutional maps  
4 available today that have been scrutinized by  
5 people in the state of Ohio. You have these maps  
6 available today, maps that have clearly-written  
7 explanations of the decision-making process that  
8 went into developing the maps in accordance with  
9 the constitutional criteria.

10           Instead, by choosing to begin this  
11 redistricting process with the obviously flawed  
12 maps that you voted to approve as your starting  
13 place, you're deliberately poisoning process. The  
14 citizens of Ohio deserve better from you.

15           You have a responsibility to the citizens  
16 to meet their demands for fair districts and to do  
17 so by beginning this process with the best  
18 possible maps available, not the flawed maps that  
19 we have been working from up to now. You have  
20 those maps, and they are available today.

21           If you choose to ignore these resources  
22 and instead persist in using these partisan  
23 gerrymandered maps as your starting point, you  
24 need to understand this action for what it is.  
25 It's an attack on our representative democracy,

1 one that seeks to manipulate and distort the will  
2 of the people. You're choosing to attack the very  
3 heart of our democracy, the lifeblood of our  
4 democracy, which is fair representation for our  
5 citizens.

6 We endured an attack on our citizens 20  
7 years ago that was initiated from outside our  
8 borders, but this now feels like another attack,  
9 this time coming from within our borders, indeed  
10 from within our own Statehouse. We deserve  
11 better. Please do not attack our democracy from  
12 within by poisoning this process by starting with  
13 these partisan maps. We deserve better. Thank  
14 you.

15 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your  
16 testimony. Is there any questions for the  
17 witness? All right.

18 Is Elliot Archkin Herritan here yet? No?

19 All right. Michael Odioso?

20 MR. ODIOSO: It's Odioso.

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Okay. Thank you for the  
22 correction.

23 MR. ODIOSO: No problem.

24 Good afternoon. My name is Michael  
25 Odioso. I am a Western Hamilton County, Green

1 Township resident and a Republican. I am also a  
2 licensed attorney in Ohio, and I speak today here  
3 on my own behalf. And thank you to this  
4 incredible group for allowing me to get my voice  
5 heard, and thank you, Commission, for your good-  
6 faith efforts so far to shepherd Ohio through this  
7 brand new redistricting process.

8           It appears to me that the process so far  
9 is constitutional and complies with the 14th  
10 Amendment, due process rights and Voting Act  
11 requirements. Never before has Ohio redistricting  
12 been more transparent, received so much voter  
13 input like today, and been guided by specific  
14 procedures and clear, although at times  
15 contradictory, goals.

16           My first concern is that critics of this  
17 Commission have already proclaimed that its  
18 workings are rigged, an offense to democracy, and  
19 cannot pass the smell test. As noted by the  
20 bipartisan National Conference of State  
21 Legislatures, the Census Bureau report was delayed  
22 four months by the pandemic, and the delays would  
23 mean deadlines, including Ohio's, would be  
24 impossible to meet.

25           Furthermore, Republicans have publicly

1 acknowledged that the current proposals are  
2 working documents subject to more data, more  
3 public comment, and in the end, our great  
4 tradition of negotiation and compromise.

5 Declaring the process fundamentally  
6 flawed, as the Ohio League of Women Voters has so  
7 prematurely proclaimed, does a disservice to this  
8 bipartisan commission and the Ohio voters, who  
9 overwhelmingly voted for this open process.

10 Have the more partisan members of the  
11 Democratic Party's voter rights complex already  
12 committed to core challenges before this first  
13 good-faith attempt is completed? In other words,  
14 have they committed to sue-until-we-turn-Ohio-blue  
15 strategy?

16 My second concern is that Republicans, no  
17 matter how honorably they conduct themselves in  
18 this process, will never be acknowledged for their  
19 efforts in Ohio and the nation's liberal news  
20 media. It appears to me that the media  
21 breathlessly repeat the Republican-bashing talking  
22 points in unison at the cost of allowing Ohio  
23 voters to reach their own conclusions at the end,  
24 in other words, rigging popular perceptions  
25 against Republicans on this panel.

1           Hasn't Ohio Speaker Robert Cupp already  
2 publicly committed to this new process? And, "We  
3 have new requirements in the Constitution. It  
4 limits some of the things we could have done  
5 before. It limits splits. It requires more  
6 compactness. We have to be able to stay within  
7 those new restraints on drawing district lines."

8           And let's face it, Republicans and  
9 Democrats on this panel are intentionally under a  
10 magnifying glass. They have an extremely tough  
11 task, to keep their proposals within these new  
12 Ohio constitutional parameters, including the  
13 inherently-conflicting legal concepts of drawing  
14 districts that both retain the voice of the  
15 community interest and, paradoxically at times,  
16 promote the value of election competitiveness.

17           Don't we see in the Democrat's proposal  
18 how paradoxical goals conflict in their awkward  
19 attempt to deal with population loss in places  
20 like Trumbull County? And hasn't Senate President  
21 Matt Huffman already asserted, "I think something  
22 that needs to be reminded here, that creating this  
23 map is not going to be easy."

24           Now, indeed the Democratic proposal  
25 states that, as was the situation in the 2010

1 reapportionment plan, Northeast Ohio presents an  
2 impossibility for full compliance in each county  
3 with more than one ratio of representation.  
4 Aren't Republicans also allowed the benefit of the  
5 doubt as they go forward?

6 My final concern is my greatest. This  
7 bipartisan Commission represents the will of Ohio  
8 voters in what is obviously an extremely high-  
9 stress environment with the potential to  
10 permanently damage bipartisanship and goodwill.  
11 Don't we share in our own personal lives common  
12 interests as Ohioans, regional residents,  
13 coworkers, and neighbors?

14 We already see evidence of the shared  
15 values in the Ohio Plan. As Senate President Matt  
16 Huffman has already noted, "Aren't the first  
17 drafts of significant portions of both parties  
18 proposed maps almost identical?" And hasn't the  
19 proposed Republican map already adopted  
20 compactness by reducing the number of counties and  
21 cities split between districts?

22 I will conclude, let's give this new  
23 redistricting process a chance to succeed. All we  
24 are saying is give peace a chance. Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Are there questions for

1 the witness? There are not?

2 (Applauds)

3 All right. Equal non-applause, please.

4 All right. Thank you very much.

5 MR. ODIOSO: Thank you, all.

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Next is Matthew Baron-  
7 Chapman. Is Matthew here?

8 All right. Christine Corba with the  
9 League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area.

10 MS. CORBA: Good afternoon, Commission.  
11 My name is Christine Corba, and I'm the Executive  
12 Director of the League of Women Voters of the  
13 Greater Dayton Area. Thank you so much for the  
14 opportunity to testify.

15 The League has introduced and supported  
16 initiatives to place redistricting reform on the  
17 ballot for 40 years. When Ohioans overwhelmingly  
18 approved constitutional amendments in 2015 and  
19 2018 that would deliver a transparent process that  
20 promotes fairness and bipartisanship, we were  
21 hopeful that our goal of fair maps would be  
22 realized.

23 For the past six months, Dayton Area  
24 League members have provided educational  
25 opportunities and community mapmaking sessions in

1 Greene and Montgomery Counties. These events help  
2 to empower citizens to insist that the reforms  
3 they voted for were implemented during the  
4 mapmaking process.

5 This tireless group of volunteers helped  
6 citizens create and then submit eight community  
7 maps of Beavercreek, Centerville, Farmersville,  
8 New Lebanon, Jefferson Township, Kettering,  
9 Oakwood, and Trotwood. Each of these maps are  
10 respectful of county and municipal boundaries and  
11 consider factors including communities of  
12 interest, school districts, and unique community  
13 features. Most important, the maps demonstrate  
14 how the residents of these communities believe  
15 they would be best represented.

16 The officially proposed maps do not take  
17 these factors into account. While we understand  
18 that the Commission was under constraints due to  
19 the delay of census data, there was ample time to  
20 hold public hearings over the summer. A lack of  
21 preparation and research resulted in a rushed  
22 process, which did not allow time for citizen  
23 participation. We are also concerned that the  
24 maps do not meet the standards mandated in the  
25 constitutional amendment.

1           While both parties have created  
2 gerrymandered maps over the years, the intent of  
3 the new process was to create fair, proportional  
4 maps. Based on statewide voting over the past  
5 decade, Ohio's vote share is 46.38 percent  
6 Democrat and 53.62 percent Republican.  
7 Proportionally, the House's 99 seats should be  
8 made up of 46 Democrats and 53 Republicans. As  
9 the maps are drawn, the likely outcome would be  
10 approximately 32.32 percent Democratic seats and  
11 67.67 percent Republican seats.

12           Proportionally, the Senate's 33 seats  
13 should be made up of 15 Democrat-leaning districts  
14 and 18 Republican-leaning districts. As the maps  
15 are drawn, the likely outcome is the Senate will  
16 also be unbalanced with approximately 30.30  
17 Democratic seats and 69.69 percent Republican  
18 seats.

19           Disproportionate district maps reduce  
20 voter choices and lead to fewer competitive  
21 elections. Also troubling was that the maps were  
22 drawn without the use of racial and demographic  
23 data. As such, they did adhere to the Voting  
24 Rights Act, which requires that districts reflect  
25 the diversity of their citizens.

1           Additionally, the officially proposed  
2 maps appear to have cracked minority -- some  
3 districts, diluting the voting power of  
4 communities of color. Finally, the amendment  
5 specifies that the mapmaking process be  
6 transparent. The officially proposed maps were  
7 adopted before citizens had the opportunity to  
8 provide feedback.

9           We realize the Commission is under a  
10 tight deadline, and by its own admission, there is  
11 still a lot of work to be done. But resources are  
12 available. Fair Districts Ohio recently announced  
13 the cowinners of its map competition.

14           Their Ohio House map scored higher in  
15 terms of proportionality, minority representation,  
16 and compactness than the officially proposed map,  
17 and their Senate maps were higher in  
18 proportionality and compactness and scored  
19 similarly in terms of minority representation.  
20 The maps were thoughtfully drawn, keeping in mind  
21 the uniqueness of each community.

22           We urge the Commission to do the same and  
23 to respect the will of voters by producing maps  
24 that provide fair representation for all Ohioans.  
25 Thank you, again, for the opportunity to speak.

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for coming  
2 today to speak.

3 MS. CORBA: Thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Other questions for --  
5 Representative LaRose, and then before  
6 you leave, I'm going to ask you to spell your name  
7 for the record.

8 MS. CORBA: Certainly.

9 CO-CHAIR CUPP: I had forgotten to do  
10 that. So I apologize.

11 MS. CORBA: Okay. It's Corba, C-o-r-b-a.

12 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Okay.

13 SECRETARY LAROSE: Thank you, Speaker,  
14 and thank you, ma'am, for your testimony. We  
15 really appreciate that. Your proportionality  
16 numbers differed from Professor Gunther's. Would  
17 you be willing to share your math with us or where  
18 those came from -- and not even verbally but maybe  
19 upload it to our Commission website or show how  
20 you arrived at those numbers?

21 MS. CORBA: I didn't approximate them. I  
22 took them straight from the Dave's Redistricting.

23 SECRETARY LAROSE: Okay. So your numbers  
24 come off of Dave's Redistricting?

25 MS. CORBA: That was the information that

1 was received from the Ohio League of Women Voters.

2 Yes.

3 SECRETARY LAROSE: Got you. Okay. Thank  
4 you, ma'am.

5 MS. CORBA: Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Chair recognizes Senator  
7 Antani.

8 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
9 Thank you for coming and testifying.

10 MS. CORBA: Thank you.

11 SENATOR ANTANI: So Professor Gunther was  
12 not able to cite how Dave's Redistricting came up  
13 with those numbers. Do you know how Dave's  
14 Redistricting calculated those numbers?

15 MS. CORBA: Again, as Professor Gunther  
16 said, those are estimates, and those were numbers  
17 that were used to estimate the division of the  
18 districts.

19 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you very much.

20 MS. CORBA: Thank you so much.

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Our next witness is Judy  
22 Douglas.

23 And, Judy, before I forget, I will ask  
24 you to spell your name for the record too please.

25 MS. DOUGLAS: Sure. It's Judy, J-u-d-y,

1 Douglas, D-o-u-g-l-a-s.

2 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

3 MS. DOUGLAS: Good afternoon, everybody.

4 My name is Judy Douglas. I live in Beavercreek,  
5 and I'm 73 years old. And that matters, and you  
6 will hear why as it comes up.

7 The structure of voting districts affects  
8 lives. We're hearing about proportionate things,  
9 but it is individuals. It is people. Our  
10 districts give everyone the opportunity to vote,  
11 to be heard, to choose the persons to represent  
12 them. Gerrymandered voting districts take away  
13 the ability of voters to determine how their lives  
14 can be lived by cheating.

15 Let me start by telling you two very  
16 personal stories, a little bit of science, and how  
17 these items relate to redistricting. When I was  
18 12, my next-door neighbor's daughter was brutally  
19 murdered. Her nickname was Peachy. She had an  
20 illegal abortion that was so unsafe and botched  
21 that afterwards she required hospitalization.

22 She agreed to testify as part of the  
23 prosecution against the abortionist. When it  
24 became known that she would testify, persons came  
25 to her home and took her. There's evidence she

1 fought for her life. She was bound with barbed  
2 wire, bound to cement blocks, and thrown in the  
3 river. A month later, her body was found, and no  
4 one was ever arrested for her murder.

5 Every year for many years on the  
6 anniversary of Peachy's murder, the local  
7 newspaper carried the story. In this manner,  
8 every woman was reminded that her life meant  
9 nothing. No one would pay a price for murdering  
10 her if she spoke out against an illegal  
11 abortionist.

12 Many, many years later, I went for a six-  
13 weeks' checkup after the birth of my daughter.  
14 The physician looked me in the eye and said, "You  
15 will not survive another pregnancy, and I'm not  
16 doing anything about it." I won't tell you his  
17 religion. I don't care who you worship, how you  
18 worship, what your religion is. That's your  
19 choice.

20 This was still when abortion was illegal.  
21 Before Roe v. Wade abortions were made legal,  
22 abortions were ugly, unsafe, and resulted in  
23 death. Wealthy women will always get abortions.  
24 They can afford it. They can go other places.  
25 They can take the tour of Europe. People used to

1 do that.

2 Religion should have no place in the  
3 discussion of abortion. Many politicians have  
4 forgotten that we have the concept of separation  
5 of church and state. Today, our gerrymandered  
6 state of Ohio was able to pass the law forbidding  
7 an abortion six weeks into a pregnancy. Most  
8 women will not know they are pregnant at that  
9 time. Many women will continue to have periods  
10 throughout their pregnancy.

11 We have established criteria for  
12 determining a human being brain dead and no longer  
13 in need of life support. If we apply the same  
14 criteria for establishing a legal limit for  
15 accessing an abortion, then an abortion should be  
16 legal up to the fifth month of a pregnancy.

17 The so-called heartbeat at six weeks is  
18 not the result of a formed heart. The only reason  
19 a so-called heartbeat can be heard at six weeks is  
20 due to increased technological equipment. A  
21 formed human heart does not exist at six weeks and  
22 not for many more weeks.

23 However, gerrymandering has resulted --  
24 oh. Okay. Gerrymandering has resulted in a few  
25 radical and religious groups pushing an abortion

1 agenda on to the public. Overwhelmingly, voters  
2 want safe and legal abortions. Unfortunately,  
3 that is being lost due to partisan gerrymandering,  
4 and that gerrymandering affects lives.

5 Gerrymandering is a form of voter  
6 suppression. Packing like voters into a district  
7 and then cracking apart other districts creates a  
8 situation that favors only one party, and in the  
9 current environment, that's resulting in the will  
10 of the majority of peoples being denied.

11 Politicians choosing voters rather than  
12 voters choosing the politicians is democracy  
13 upside down. Please do as the voters of Ohio have  
14 asked you to do twice at the ballot box and create  
15 fair voting districts. Let all our voices be  
16 heard.

17 And I see my time is up. Do you have any  
18 questions?

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Are there any  
20 questions?

21 MS. DOUGLAS: Okay.

22 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thanks very much for  
23 coming today.

24 MS. DOUGLAS: Thank you. And I apologize  
25 for the apparent rudeness. I do need to leave.

1 Thank you.

2 CO-CHAIR CUPP: That's perfectly  
3 understandable. Thank you.

4 Mark Erhardt.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Can you turn the  
6 mics up a little bit?

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: We're trying.

8 MR. ERHARDT: Co-Chairs Cupp and Sykes  
9 and members of the Commission, thank you for  
10 allowing me to speak today. My name is Mark  
11 Erhardt, and that is spelled M-a-r-k, E-r-h-a-r-d-  
12 t. I live in the Columbia-Tusculum neighborhood  
13 in the city of Cincinnati.

14 I am here to speak in opposition to the  
15 maps officially proposed (indiscernible) and to  
16 speak in favor of maps submitted by Geoff Wise and  
17 the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

18 When I retired from my job last year as a  
19 senior vice president of a large bank  
20 headquartered in Ohio, I had time to pay more  
21 attention to state and local issues. One area  
22 that seemed ripe for improvement was how  
23 legislative districts are drawn in the state of  
24 Ohio. So I began to pay attention to the  
25 redistricting process this year.

1           As someone new to the world of Ohio  
2 politics, I would have to say I have been  
3 disappointed and underwhelmed by how the process  
4 has gone so far, particularly after citizens of  
5 Ohio voted overwhelmingly to create a more  
6 bipartisan process this time around. Frankly,  
7 there has been a failure to meet the expectations  
8 of your constituents, the citizens you represent.

9           The process got off to a late start,  
10 blamed solely on the delays in the delivery of the  
11 U.S. census data, when, in fact, the Governor  
12 could have called the Commission together earlier  
13 to define a transparent process, to come to common  
14 understanding on who would draw the maps, how  
15 citizens could better access the proposed maps,  
16 and perhaps avoid the mad dash to the finish line  
17 between now and September 15th.

18           And, for example, the Commission could  
19 have established the data criteria for the  
20 partisan voting patterns, instead of citizens  
21 having to rely on public sources such as Dave's  
22 Redistricting app.

23           I attended both of the Commission  
24 hearings last Thursday, September 9th, and  
25 testified briefly in the morning session after the

1 Republican staff presented their maps.

2 I was not impressed with how the  
3 Commission conducted its business. Before there  
4 was adequate time to review the maps in detail, in  
5 the afternoon, the Commission voted along partisan  
6 lines to advance the Republican staff-provided  
7 maps as the official version for final negotiation  
8 and approval.

9 This was a major disappointment. As far  
10 as I could tell, every section of Article XI of  
11 the Ohio Constitution refers to the Commission,  
12 not one political party's staff, as having the  
13 authority and responsibility to draw district  
14 lines.

15 The Democratic Senate staff previously  
16 submitted their own maps. Why didn't the  
17 Commission work in a bipartisan fashion to  
18 negotiate differences between the submissions  
19 prior to voting to advance an official version for  
20 final citizen review and Commission approval?

21 Did the Commission review any of the  
22 nonpartisan alternative maps submitted prior to  
23 hastily approving partisan-submitted maps?

24 Based on my attendance at the Thursday,  
25 September 9th hearings, I believe the Commission

1 failed to live up to the bipartisan expectations  
2 that the citizens of this state expected of them.  
3 It looks like this was yet another partisan  
4 process and outcome.

5 My specific opposition to the maps  
6 proposed by the Commission is that I believe they  
7 clearly fail to meet the standards in Article XI,  
8 Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution.

9 As approved by the voters, the  
10 Constitution says, "The Commission shall attempt  
11 to draw a General Assembly District Plan that  
12 meets all three of these standards; no district  
13 plan drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a  
14 political party; (b), statewide proportion of  
15 districts shall correspond closely to the  
16 statewide preferences of voters; and (c),  
17 compactness."

18 The map supplied by one of the political  
19 parties, improved by the Commission along partisan  
20 lines appears to violate all three, all of these  
21 standards, and that no attempt was made to meet  
22 them. I urge the Commission to reject partisan  
23 map submissions and instead focus on proposals  
24 submitted by Geoff Wise and the Ohio Citizens'  
25 Redistricting Commission. Both alternatives

1 appear to more closely meet the standards detailed  
2 in Section 6 of Article XI of the Ohio  
3 Constitution.

4 I would also note the fact that an  
5 individual citizen of the state, Mr. Wise, and a  
6 group of volunteers at the Ohio Citizens'  
7 Redistricting Commission were able to create  
8 Article XI compliant maps shows how the  
9 constitutionally-mandated commission made up of  
10 the most powerful leaders in the state failed to  
11 do the job asked of them, that they follow the  
12 Ohio Constitution as amended by its citizens to  
13 take partisanship out of the redistricting  
14 process.

15 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Are there  
16 questions for the witness?

17 Chair recognizes Auditor Faber.

18 AUDITOR FABER: Thank you. Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman, and to the witness because I think  
20 our goal here is to take a look specific at the  
21 concerns and not continue to hear the general  
22 concerns that you have expressed now a couple of  
23 times. You live in Columbia-Tusculum?

24 MR. ERHARDT: Yes. In Cincinnati.

25 AUDITOR FABER: I'm looking at the maps

1 that were submitted by the Democrat Senate and the  
2 ones that were submitted by the Republicans in the  
3 House and Senate. Is there differences to how  
4 either one of those maps treats Columbia and  
5 Tusculum? We have heard a lot of people --

6 MR. ERHARDT: There is not a difference.  
7 I have actually looked at both the Commission-  
8 approved ones. I looked at the ones that the  
9 Democrats had submitted. I looked at Mr. Wise's  
10 maps and the several of the other maps that were  
11 there.

12 My actual neighborhood actually is  
13 treated fairly, but my more general concern is  
14 both for the state as a whole and actually for the  
15 entire process. That is to say I'm new to  
16 watching politics here, and I just guess I had had  
17 higher expectations that this process wouldn't be  
18 as partisan as it appears to be.

19 AUDITOR FABER: I appreciate that,  
20 Mr. Chairman -- or to the two chairmen and to our  
21 witness. We have heard a lot of testimony at  
22 various hearings about Columbia-Tusculum, and I  
23 will be candid. I did not know the nuances of the  
24 district that we have heard from a lot of  
25 proponents. So it is your -- and that's what I

1 was hoping to get to. I did not know whether it  
2 has been treated the same or not under the various  
3 maps. You're saying effectively it's treated the  
4 same, and you're satisfied with how that --

5 MR. ERHARDT: It is treated -- yes. Yes.  
6 Actually, I am satisfied.

7 AUDITOR FABER: Okay.

8 MR. ERHARDT: I am satisfied for my own  
9 personal situation, but, again, I'm speaking more  
10 generally for, you know, the broader public.

11 AUDITOR FABER: That's what I want to  
12 know is how the maps are treating people, and I  
13 didn't know that answer for that community.

14 MR. ERHARDT: Yeah. No. Thank you for  
15 that question.

16 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Mr. Erhardt,  
17 did I ask you and did you spell your name for the  
18 record please?

19 MR. ERHARDT: Yes. It was Erhardt, E-r-  
20 h-a-r-d-t, and first name is Mark, M-a-r-k.

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Thank you  
22 very much.

23 Next witness is Darryl Fairchild.

24 MR. FAIRCHILD: Darryl Fairchild, D-a-r-  
25 r-y-l, F-a-i-r-c-h-i-l-d.

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. I appreciate  
2 that.

3 MR. FAIRCHILD: Yeah. My name is Darryl  
4 Fairchild, and I'm a Dayton City Commissioner, as  
5 well as a member of the League of Women Voters of  
6 Dayton and a lifelong member of the NAACP and a  
7 plaintiff in the settlement with the previous  
8 Secretary of State Husted on early voting.

9 I speak on behalf of my colleagues, Mayor  
10 Nan Whaley, Commissioners Matt Joseph, Jeffrey  
11 Mims, and Chris Shaw. We're asking for these  
12 unconstitutional gerrymandering maps to be  
13 rejected. Voters overwhelmingly approved a new  
14 process in 2017 that was meant to limit the impact  
15 of partisan gerrymandering and create maps that  
16 ensure fair representation for all Ohioans.

17 These maps fall far short of what Ohioans  
18 demanded and our Constitution requires. Extreme  
19 gerrymandering harms Dayton residents by diluting  
20 their voices in the State House. Neither proposed  
21 maps leaves Dayton intact, and the maps cut off  
22 Dayton -- cut us off from our suburban neighbors  
23 that face challenges similar to our own.

24 Montgomery County, which typically votes  
25 relatively evenly between Democrats and

1     Republicans, will almost surely be without any  
2     Democratic representation in the Senate and will  
3     have only one of five members as Democrats in the  
4     House.

5             Without representation that reflects the  
6     makeup of our community, the most pressing issues  
7     facing Dayton -- poverty, housing instability, and  
8     a legacy of racist education and housing policies  
9     -- get shortchanged in Columbus and favor of  
10    partisan cultural wars.

11            In Dayton, we are doing our best to  
12    address these issues, but we need a partner in the  
13    state to address them effectively. Instead, we  
14    find that the state legislature is often actively  
15    seeking to harm Dayton and Ohio's other cities by  
16    attacking our home rule authority or undermining  
17    our funding resources.

18            To be specific, I ask that we redraw the  
19    maps to emphasize the representation fairness  
20    criteria, as well to eliminate the practice of  
21    packing.

22            Secretary LaRose, you mentioned taking  
23    the competitive races off of the table. I would  
24    like to see your evaluation of the districts. The  
25    evaluation I saw identifies two House districts

1 that are competitive and one Senate district that  
2 is competitive. If there were more, we would  
3 gladly join with you to support these maps.

4 This is not what our state Constitution  
5 requires. This is not what the voters wanted.  
6 They -- and we -- demand a fair process and fair  
7 representation. We ask you to uphold your oath to  
8 the Constitution and to reject these maps. Thank  
9 you.

10 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

11 Chair recognizes Secretary LaRose.

12 SECRETARY LAROSE: Yeah. Thank you, sir,  
13 appreciate your testimony. And I wanted to ask  
14 something that you had mentioned about neither map  
15 keeps Dayton intact. My understanding is that the  
16 population of the city of Dayton exceeds the ratio  
17 for one representative district. So it's not  
18 possible to draw a map that keeps Dayton intact,  
19 correct?

20 MR. FAIRCHILD: Correct.

21 SECRETARY LAROSE: Okay.

22 MR. FAIRCHILD: But what we see is the  
23 packing -- practice of packing. And so our  
24 Democratic voters get packed into one district,  
25 while we shave off the Republican voters into

1 other districts.

2 SECRETARY LAROSE: Okay. Yeah. And fair  
3 assessment on that, just as far as keeping Dayton  
4 intact, it's too large to be one district,  
5 obviously. The comment that you made, I  
6 appreciate, and as I have said all along since  
7 Thursday, these maps that were proposed Thursday  
8 are very much a work in progress.

9 And my idea of sort of taking those  
10 competitive districts and considering those off to  
11 the side and then looking at those safe districts  
12 for the proportionality question, that is for the  
13 ongoing negotiations and the future amendments to  
14 come to these maps, certainly not for the one that  
15 was introduced on Thursday.

16 MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, I appreciate that,  
17 and I'm sure that people in this room would join  
18 you to create more competitive districts because I  
19 don't know what your analysis is, but on ours, the  
20 one I have seen, it's three. And that's certainly  
21 not fair to our citizens or does justice to the  
22 democratic process.

23 SECRETARY LAROSE: All right. Thank you.

24 MR. FAIRCHILD: Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you very much.

1 MR. FAIRCHILD: Yeah.

2 LEADER SYKES: I have a question.

3 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Oh, I'm sorry. Leader  
4 Sykes?

5 LEADER SYKES: Thank you. Thank you,  
6 Mr. Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner,  
7 for joining us today. So you mentioned at the  
8 beginning of your testimony that the city -- the  
9 way that the Commission-adopted maps are now, it  
10 separates the city from your suburban neighbors.

11 MR. FAIRCHILD: Right.

12 LEADER SYKES: Could you tell us which  
13 suburban neighbors you were looking to have Dayton  
14 connected with? Since we do have to split the  
15 city because it is larger than a district, which  
16 direction should we go, and what communities would  
17 you combine? What do you suggest we combine with  
18 this --

19 MR. FAIRCHILD: Sure. Well, I think in  
20 Dayton what we recognize is that many of our  
21 first-ring suburbs (indiscernible) similar issues  
22 that we have with Dayton voters, and so, you know,  
23 there's parts of Kettering, Jefferson Township,  
24 Harrison Township, Huber Heights, Trotwood.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Chair recognizes Senator

1 Antani.

2 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3 To just sort of extrapolate what the  
4 Secretary of State was asking about.

5 So as we have acknowledged, the city of  
6 Dayton's population in the 2020 census was  
7 137,000, which is more than the 105 percent ratio  
8 of a House district, and the map, actually, if you  
9 look at it, you know, from a political standpoint,  
10 I think, you know, it moves Belmont, actually,  
11 into what is now the 39th House district, which  
12 has most of the city of Dayton.

13 And then it moves Jackson Township out of  
14 the 39th and then, you know, more of the city of  
15 Dayton that is left intact, keeping community  
16 whole, but then the Northeast part of Dayton, I  
17 think, is then split off. And so, you know, I  
18 guess, when you have got, you know, only 12,000  
19 voters to work with, I mean, I guess where would  
20 you like those voters to go, those citizens to go?

21 MR. FAIRCHILD: Yeah. Well, I appreciate  
22 the question, and I would think that hearing the  
23 other testimony today the Harrison Township, the  
24 Jefferson, Trotwood. And I think the biggest  
25 thing is to eliminate the packing of West Dayton,

1 you know. I think that's the piece. When I have  
2 seen the alternative maps that people have  
3 proposed, it doesn't pack the votes in West  
4 Dayton.

5 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow-up, Chairman?

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Proceed.

7 SENATOR ANTANI: One of the principles  
8 that he used is keeping communities as whole as  
9 possible. Right.

10 MR. FAIRCHILD: Sure.

11 SENATOR ANTANI: So, you know, the  
12 Constitution lays out that, again, if a  
13 municipality is the size of a House district, it  
14 has to be wholly contained within that House  
15 district. Dayton is not, and so -- but it's right  
16 on the edge. Right.

17 MR. FAIRCHILD: Right.

18 SENATOR ANTANI: So 120,000 for a House  
19 district, 126,000 for 105 percent. The population  
20 of Dayton is 137,000. So I guess I'm a little  
21 confused. Do you want Dayton to stay as one  
22 community, or is that considered packing for you?

23 MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, I appreciate that,  
24 but you focused on the House districts. And then  
25 when we get to the Senate, we know that the

1 Senate, we don't have any representation that  
2 equals what we see in Montgomery County in terms  
3 of the party voting practices.

4 And so I think that there has to be a  
5 line to those House districts that then compose  
6 the Senate, and so by focusing on the House, we  
7 aren't doing justice to the Senate lines as well.

8 And so I think that's where it gets very  
9 complicated, and so to try to pinpoint here and go  
10 on one specific, you have raised the question of  
11 how to get the state districts drawn fairly.

12 SENATOR ANTANI: Last follow-up,  
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 And I guess just to say that, you know,  
15 in that Senate district, you know, part of it is  
16 with suburbs, and then the other part is with  
17 Trotwood and, you know, the townships on, you  
18 know, the western part of the county, the northern  
19 part of the county. So I mean, I guess I'm just a  
20 little confused as to what exactly you would  
21 prefer.

22 MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, I would be glad to  
23 work with you to come up with where specifically  
24 we could move and negotiate that. I appreciate  
25 that.

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Chair recognizes Auditor  
2 Faber.

3 AUDITOR FABER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
4 to the witness.

5 I want to emphasize a couple of things.  
6 As I look at the maps and, again, the testimony  
7 that's most helpful to me, particularly at this  
8 point, is looking at the maps. So I'm flipping  
9 between the various proposals and the maps.

10 And it looks like the voting percentage  
11 according -- again, I'm using that wonderful  
12 source everybody cites all the time is Dave's  
13 Redistricting because I haven't seen any  
14 competitive numbers from either side really. So  
15 while I don't know that I trust these, these are  
16 the only ones I have to look at.

17 Dave's Redistricting says that Montgomery  
18 County is essentially 49.3 percent Republican and  
19 48.2 percent Democrat. If I were going to draw  
20 Senate districts with regard to that population  
21 switch, unless I pack and crack, I'm going to end  
22 up with a Senate district that's relatively either  
23 in the competitive range or I'm going to end up  
24 with a Republican district, particularly when two-  
25 thirds of Montgomery County makes up a Senate

1 district.

2 And so if I'm drawing without regard to  
3 district partisan indexes, how do you draw, in  
4 your words, a Democrat State Senator?

5 MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, forgive me if I'm  
6 wrong, but I believe the Constitution requires you  
7 to draw by state index.

8 AUDITOR FABER: I assume that's what I'm  
9 looking at here, and the Dave's Redistricting  
10 state index tells me if I'm drawing without regard  
11 to index, it's going to be -- I'm going to have to  
12 do something. If I'm not going to draw a  
13 competitive district for a Democrat Senator in  
14 Dayton, I'm going to have to do gerrymandering to  
15 get you a Democrat Senator in Dayton.

16 MR. FAIRCHILD: I think we're asking for  
17 a competitive district, and I think this  
18 constitutionally requires you to regard partisan  
19 index. I think that's the representation fairness  
20 criteria.

21 AUDITOR FABER: Well, again, I have  
22 pointed this out. The Constitution doesn't say  
23 representational fairness. It says three factors  
24 to be considered, and we're to determine what  
25 those factors mean.

1           But looking at these districts  
2 specifically in your question about Dayton, I  
3 assume because Dayton's population is one House  
4 district plus, your preference would be to keep  
5 all of Dayton in at least one House district, or  
6 do you want to split Dayton multiple times?

7           Again, my reading of the Constitution --

8           MR. FAIRCHILD: I think it is, obviously,  
9 required to be split twice.

10          AUDITOR FABER: And one of those splits  
11 has to include a district that includes a district  
12 solely within Dayton. Is that your understanding,  
13 or do we split Dayton twice with outside areas and  
14 put that 130,000 people in two different districts  
15 in equal numbers?

16          MR. FAIRCHILD: Well, I think that  
17 becomes a question of how you balance all the  
18 different criteria.

19          AUDITOR FABER: As a Dayton Commissioner,  
20 would you rather have one House district that is  
21 solely contained within the city of Dayton and one  
22 that goes outside of Dayton, or would you rather  
23 have the -- what is your preference?

24          MR. FAIRCHILD: My preference is to have  
25 competitive races. I would put that criteria

1 higher than others, and I think, as my testimony,  
2 connecting them with our suburban inner circle  
3 suburbs that share like issues would be  
4 preferable.

5 AUDITOR FABER: Okay. Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Thank you  
7 very much.

8 MR. FAIRCHILD: Yeah. You're welcome.

9 CO-CHAIR CUPP: At this time, Co-Chair  
10 Sykes will take over moderating.

11 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: The next witness  
12 is Ms. Jennifer Fisher (phonetic).

13 Jennifer Fisher?

14 Okay. Then we would have Shannon  
15 Freshour. Please state and spell your name,  
16 please.

17 MS. FRESHOUR: Of course. My name is  
18 Shannon Freshour. It's S-h-a-n-n-o-n. Last name  
19 is F like Frank, r-e-s, like Sam, h-o-u-r. And I  
20 am here to oppose these maps that have been  
21 presented. The key thing is I have been listening  
22 to the commentary, and Secretary of State LaRose  
23 asked for civility and for us to focus on these  
24 maps and focus.

25 And the problem with that is there's a

1 lot of people with a lot of outrage at what we  
2 have been subjected to both for the last decade,  
3 in the last round of this, that we see being  
4 mirrored in this round. We can talk about the  
5 fact that the final census data was late, but it  
6 was on time. But it was before the deadline.

7 And we also know that census data is  
8 delivered well in advance. Like you get census  
9 data all the time. The U.S. Census Department  
10 doesn't sit around and only work on 10 years.  
11 They deliver updates all the time. You could have  
12 had plans in place where you did the final Senate  
13 approval at the time, but you chose not to.

14 You chose to continue a plan that is, in  
15 effect, going to give a four-year, wholly partisan  
16 attempt that we will end up in four years coming  
17 back and having to have this fight again, and it  
18 is unconscionable for people who work for us.

19 It also gives us another four years of  
20 extraordinary extremism, which is killing Ohioans.  
21 It's maiming them. It's killing them. I ran the  
22 numbers from the COVID database this morning.  
23 68,124 people, I think it is, or something to that  
24 effect, have been hospitalized for COVID in Ohio.

25 That's literally every person in my

1 hometown of Marian, myself included, every person  
2 in Lima, including Co-Chair Cupp and President  
3 Huffman, and the entire town of -- I think  
4 Independence, actually. And if we go by who has  
5 died in Ohio in the last 18 months, we would  
6 eliminate the entirety of Tiffin and Ross County  
7 and still have dozens more who have died.

8 That's what extreme gerrymandering is  
9 giving us, and it's giving us instead of fighting  
10 this, we're fighting to have fair maps.

11 (Indiscernible) vaccines from like mandates for  
12 smallpox. People are angry because when Secretary  
13 LaRose asked for civility, all I kept thinking is,  
14 that's like asking -- that's like the kidnapper  
15 saying, I have been holding you for 10 years. Why  
16 don't you have Stockholm Syndrome yet? Why can't  
17 you just accept that we are in charge, and you're  
18 going to do what we want?

19 (Applauds)

20 You can shake your head, but it's true.  
21 That's exactly what I sat there and thought, and  
22 that's what I thought every time I have heard the  
23 questions. President Huffman couldn't be bothered  
24 to show up to defend maps that he proposed in a  
25 constitutionally-required event. He couldn't be

1     bothered to show up.

2                   Unless he's sitting in a hospital in an  
3     emergency room, there's absolutely no excuse for  
4     someone who is not him to be sitting in that  
5     chair. No offense to you, you know.

6                   SENATOR ANTANI: None taken.

7                   MS. FRESHOUR: But you didn't propose the  
8     maps. And if we want to talk about the maps, I  
9     have no idea, being in Union County, how far into  
10    Franklin County do these maps go? I know they go  
11    into Dublin, but do they go into Upper Arlington?  
12    Do they go into Worthington? What are the map  
13    deadlines? I can see it on the map, like the  
14    county map, but I don't know what the definitive  
15    lines are.

16                   This is a crisis for this state, and I  
17    get that this is a crisis that you're hoping you  
18    can kick the can and you can maintain control for  
19    the next four years, you know. Governor DeWine is  
20    just hoping we can get past the primary. He  
21    doesn't care about it, and at the beginning of  
22    this, he was fighting for all of us. Now, he's  
23    just fighting to survive. So are the rest of us,  
24    and it's our lives that we're fighting to survive  
25    with.

1           We have got communities that are being  
2     ripped apart because it's easier to keep rural,  
3     white communities together than urban populated  
4     communities of color. That's not what we should  
5     be doing.

6           We should be -- you know, the Governor  
7     wanted \$50 million for an ad campaign that said,  
8     "We're a progressive state. Come move to Ohio."  
9     Where the hell is that progressive state, you  
10    know? Leader Sykes said, "Save the money and just  
11    stop passing crazy extremist legislation."

12           That's what we should be doing, and this  
13    process is wrong. You have had the opportunity to  
14    do it right, and you chose to take the easy way  
15    out, the four-year way out, to maintain power.  
16    And I'm sorry if you don't want me to be angry,  
17    but I'm going to be angry. And I have got a right  
18    to be.

19           (Applauds)

20           Thank you.

21           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you for  
22    your testimony. Are there any questions? The  
23    next witnesses is Kathleen Gmeiner.

24           Would you state your name and spell it,  
25    please?

1 MS. GMEINER: K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n, G-m-e-i-n-  
2 e-r. Is it possible to have the map displayed?  
3 Otherwise, I have a PowerPoint with the map on it,  
4 but it's just the Commission map that I want.  
5 That's the only one I need up here.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The Commission map?

7 MS. GMEINER: Yeah.

8 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sure.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is what I want  
10 to see. Hopefully, she's got something.

11 MS. GMEINER: Thank you. Oh, okay.

12 Okay. All right. Thank you.

13 Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Cupp and Sykes  
14 and Commission members. I'm sorry. Either way,  
15 if the Commission map is available, but I also  
16 have it, okay.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to address  
18 the maps that are at the heart of Ohio's decennial  
19 restricting process. My name is Kathleen Gmeiner.  
20 I live with my husband, William Todd, in House  
21 District 17 on the southwest side of Columbus.

22 I am retired now, but my professional  
23 career took me into the Statehouse many times  
24 between the year 2000 and 2019. I will be talking  
25 about the -- well. Okay. Maybe I better use my

1 own because mine has a lot more detail. I'm  
2 sorry. Yeah.

3 Thank you. Okay. And I will be talking  
4 about the Commission's map and then also making  
5 some comparisons with the maps that were proposed  
6 by the Democratic Commission and Geoff Wise -- one  
7 of the volunteer maps -- and then Pranav  
8 Padmanabhan. These were jointly selected for the  
9 Fair Districts Legislative Mapping Competition, I  
10 guess, first prize.

11 But first, however, let me say that my  
12 observations about our state and our electoral  
13 process is that it is becoming increasingly  
14 polarized and less reflective of the desires of  
15 the voters at large, which is why getting this  
16 redistricting process right is so important.

17 In many of Ohio's districts, the primary  
18 election is the real election because the  
19 distribution of voters is not competitive, and  
20 when elections get settled at the primary, many  
21 voters start to lose interest in the electoral  
22 process. The elected officials become primarily  
23 responsive to their political base, not to all  
24 their constituents.

25 And the people who vote in the primaries

1 are a much smaller number, and they may not be  
2 reflecting the mainstream of voters. And as a  
3 result, we are seeing more and more that the  
4 legislation that is being introduced and garnering  
5 the lion's share of attention of the Ohio General  
6 Assembly is not legislation that's arising from  
7 people's concerns, but is legislation that is  
8 driven by national political agenda as the recent  
9 spate of so-called voter reform legislation shows.

10 But let me now move on to the maps. The  
11 districts that are drawn should be compact,  
12 competitive, and reflect communities of interest.  
13 It should respect governmental boundaries,  
14 counties, cities, and townships.

15 Voting pattern of Ohio has been roughly  
16 55 percent Republican and 45 percent Democrat, and  
17 the Ohio General Assembly should reflect that  
18 voting behavior. But, unfortunately, the map put  
19 forward by the Commission does not meet these  
20 standards, and it shows in the expected outcome of  
21 the House and Senate seats.

22 Let me start with some observations about  
23 Franklin County because that's where I live and  
24 I'm most familiar. You will note that the  
25 Commission -- excuse me -- map combines the

1 northwest corner of Franklin County with a large  
2 part of Union County to the north and the west.

3           So if you look over here, you will see  
4 that we have this northwest corner, and then it  
5 goes all the way up into Union County. And you  
6 don't see the number here, but this up here, it's  
7 just 12. Now, for a long time, the first three  
8 election cycles in this decade that was a  
9 Republican seat, but then after a lot of work, the  
10 Democrats captured that in 2018 and 2020.

11           So now, in an effort to gerrymander that  
12 seat, the Commission map takes, you know, a large  
13 part of Union County, which is a Republican-voting  
14 county, and puts it together with that northwest  
15 part of Franklin County.

16           As I mentioned above, I live in District  
17 17, much of which is incorporated into the new  
18 District 6 in the Commission map. Now,  
19 interestingly enough, the Commission map grabs a  
20 densely populated 100-square block area shaped  
21 like a finger out of the logical boundaries of  
22 what should be a compact District 6 and joins it  
23 to District 1 to the east.

24           And that's over here. So we have  
25 District 6 -- this is where I live over here --

1 and then this 100-square block area is suddenly  
2 put over here into District 1. Now, if you live  
3 in Columbus or know anything about Columbus, the  
4 west side and the east side, very different, those  
5 very different communities of interest.

6 Now, why was this done? For some reason,  
7 it was decided to pack these 100-square blocks of  
8 votes into the east side District 1, clearly  
9 gerrymandering. And these then become wasted  
10 Democratic votes over in District 1, which is  
11 clearly a Democratic-voting district, whereas  
12 District 6 could be a little more competitive.

13 So the Democratic caucus (indiscernible)  
14 also is a cross of Franklin County, one, which I  
15 don't really think should be (indiscernible), but  
16 it has no obvious intrusions into Franklin County  
17 districts as the Commission does. And that would  
18 be -- yeah. There is the 12 up there, and it goes  
19 up there. So that's a little of the concern to me  
20 too.

21 Now, in the maps by Geoff Wise, that  
22 keeps all the districts within the boundaries of  
23 Franklin County. So it can be done, clearly can  
24 be done. Now, using the scoring mechanisms of  
25 Dave's Redistricting app, which is the software

1 tool used by the Commission, the Democratic  
2 caucus, and the winners of the Fair Districts  
3 contest, the Commission map lags behind the other  
4 three significantly in the scoring.

5 Here is the bottom line. In the  
6 Commission's map, there are 56 Republican House  
7 seats -- oh, man -- I will go really fast -- and  
8 11 seats that lean Republican, while there are 23  
9 Democratic seats with 8 that lean Democratic.  
10 Only one House seat is really competitive.

11 In the Senate, there are 18 Republican  
12 seats and 5 that lean Republican and 7 Democratic  
13 seats and 1 that leans Democratic. Only two  
14 Senate seats are truly competitive. Okay.

15 But Geoff Wise was able, using the same  
16 software, to come up with a 54-39 breakout and a  
17 54-34 breakout in the House, and Pranav  
18 Padmanabhan proposed a map with a 58-34 breakout  
19 in the Senate and the 63-32 breakout in the House.  
20 Only to say it can be done.

21 So I'm sorry that I went over slightly,  
22 and I'm happy to answer any questions, if you have  
23 them.

24 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you for  
25 your testimony.

1           Are there any questions? Thank you very  
2 much.

3           MS. GMEINER: Okay.

4           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Next witness is  
5 Mokarum Khan (phonetic).

6           Okay. Matthew Krug.

7           MR. KRUG: Good afternoon. My name is  
8 Matthew Krug, K-r-u-g, and I would like to thank  
9 the Redistricting Commission and my fellow  
10 citizens for allowing me to speak to you all today  
11 on this important issue.

12           I am a father, a husband, a scientist,  
13 and a concerned citizen of the state of Ohio. My  
14 home is in Oakwood, an inner ring Dayton suburb.  
15 I'm here today to give my opinion on the maps that  
16 were recently officially proposed by the Ohio  
17 Redistricting Commission.

18           I have had the privilege to be part of a  
19 group of volunteers with the League of Women  
20 Voters, which has been traveling to communities  
21 all over Montgomery County for the last six months  
22 to understand directly from residents how they  
23 define and describe their communities, what they  
24 feel they need from their government and their  
25 political representatives, and to document that in

1 the form of community maps.

2 Over that time, I have come to understand  
3 and to care about what they feel is not working  
4 and that they need from their representatives.  
5 These people all deserve representatives that know  
6 them and that care about each of their  
7 communities, but I don't believe that the proposed  
8 maps will provide that for them.

9 I would like to start by considering the  
10 proposed Ohio House map. While I actually think  
11 that there are a few good features of that map  
12 that should be preserved, these are far outweighed  
13 by some of the negative ones.

14 A notable example, Trotwood residents  
15 stated clearly that they do not want to be severed  
16 from Dayton and its surroundings and to be grouped  
17 in with Preble County, but that is exactly what  
18 this map does to them, again, as in 2010.

19 Taking a broader view, it is a  
20 requirement of this Commission to create a map  
21 with partisan proportionality to actual voting  
22 patterns. Considering all districts, which are in  
23 whole or in part in Montgomery County, the  
24 proposed map is highly skewed.

25 In aggregate, the districts likely

1 partisan lean is 51 to 47 Republican to Democrat,  
2 but race outcomes are very likely 80 to 20 by  
3 districts, 4 to 1. In other words, the 4 percent  
4 difference in partisan lean is inflated by this  
5 map into a likely 60 percent advantage for  
6 Montgomery County.

7 To understand this better, I calculated  
8 the efficiency gap for Montgomery County's  
9 proposed districts. This is a simple metric for  
10 disproportionality that compares what's called  
11 wasted votes.

12 Wasted votes are votes that are cast for  
13 a losing candidate or votes for a winning  
14 candidate that are in excess of those needed to  
15 win. As such, it neatly accounts for both the  
16 primary mechanism gerrymandering, both packing and  
17 cracking.

18 The efficiency gap compares the wasted  
19 votes for the two parties, and if there is a large  
20 gap, that is an indication that the map is  
21 gerrymandered in the way that removes political  
22 power from one group of voters and delivers it to  
23 another in a way that is strongly out of  
24 proportion to the preferences of the electorate.

25 For Montgomery County districts in the

1 proposed House map, the gap is large.  
2 Specifically, 4 out of 10 votes cast by  
3 Democratic-leaning voters in Montgomery County  
4 will be wasted, 4 out of 10. Conversely, only 2  
5 out of 10 votes cast by Republican-leaning voters  
6 will be wasted in Montgomery County. The  
7 efficiency gap for the House map is 24 percent.  
8 This is far too large.

9 Now, moving to the proposed Senate map,  
10 10 out of 10 votes cast by Democratic-leaning  
11 voters in Montgomery County will almost certainly  
12 be wasted.

13 It will be nearly impossible for the city  
14 of Dayton to have a Democratic Senator  
15 representing them in Columbus, despite Dayton's  
16 importance in the region as one of Ohio's largest  
17 metropolitan areas, whose residents vote in  
18 overwhelming numbers for Democratic Party  
19 candidates.

20 This map robs the citizens in Dayton  
21 metro area of their political voice. A  
22 disproportionately large number of those citizens  
23 whose political power is being exported to the  
24 rural surroundings are minorities, and the pockets  
25 are being picked most aggressively in Trotwood and

1 Jefferson Township.

2 I have met with these folks. I spent  
3 hours talking with them about this issue. They  
4 care about it. They are citizens of Ohio, who  
5 deserve to have a voice in choosing who represents  
6 them, and these maps deny them that choice.

7 Creating a proportionally fair map that  
8 preserves communities is actually a difficult  
9 geographic problem. I appreciate that, but it is  
10 not impossible. And a number of the maps that do  
11 achieve this outcome have been discussed already  
12 by other testimony. No map is perfect, but many  
13 maps already proposed by citizen groups are far  
14 better starting points than the two maps proposed  
15 by this Commission.

16 Finally, in response to criticism of this  
17 map and its partisan skew, I have heard the  
18 following rejoinder on social media and even from  
19 Ohio politicians. Elections have consequences.  
20 And on this, we agree, in part.

21 Elections should have consequences, and  
22 that's exactly the point. With this map,  
23 elections won't have consequences. They will be  
24 predetermined. The truth is that the last Ohio  
25 election that has truly mattered was the 2010

1 midterm election to set up the previous  
2 gerrymander, and adopting the proposed map -- or  
3 anything like it -- will continue to force Ohio's  
4 government to remain in 2010 while the rest of the  
5 world moves on without us. Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Are  
7 there any questions? Thank you very much.

8 Oh, Leader Sykes?

9 LEADER SYKES: Thank you, sir, for your  
10 testimony today. So you mentioned specifically  
11 that you believe the communities of Trotwood and  
12 Dayton are more similarly situated. Do you know  
13 how we could construct a map that includes Dayton  
14 plus Trotwood, maybe Jefferson Township, in a way  
15 that protects the voters in those communities and  
16 does not unnecessarily crack or pack black voters?

17 MR. KRUG: I think that it would  
18 probably, given the population of the city of  
19 Dayton, it would be necessary to divide Dayton  
20 into more than one district. That district on the  
21 west side would include Jefferson Township and  
22 Trotwood, and on the east side would include some  
23 of the other outlying communities and inner ring  
24 suburbs of Dayton.

25 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: All right. Any

1 other questions?

2 AUDITOR FABER: Chairman?

3 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Auditor Faber?

4 AUDITOR FABER: Just a follow-up as  
5 somebody who knows the area. Is it your  
6 preference -- again, because Dayton is bigger than  
7 one state legislative district, would it be your  
8 preference that Dayton have one wholly contained  
9 state representative district inside its city  
10 boundaries and then one that went outside of its  
11 city boundaries for state rep. districts, or is  
12 there another proposal that would take -- and,  
13 again, one of the problems you have in districting  
14 is with geographic areas.

15 Are you going to draw spider districts or  
16 spiderwebs outside to pick up various voters to  
17 get to that 50-50 magical number? That's the  
18 problem you get into because Ohioans tend to live  
19 around people who think like them.

20 MR. KRUG: I understand, and that's a  
21 problem or a situation that's replicated all over  
22 the country. In terms of what my preferences are,  
23 I would defer to the citizens of those  
24 communities, including Dayton, and I think you all  
25 should be meeting with them to make sure that

1 you're satisfying what they want out of their  
2 representation.

3 But I think that it's almost certainly  
4 going to be necessary to divide the city of Dayton  
5 into more than one district, and it shouldn't be  
6 done in a way that disproportionately packs  
7 Democratic-leaning voters into one district. They  
8 ought to be split up in a way that enhances the  
9 goal or approaches the goal of achieving  
10 proportionality of representation for Montgomery  
11 County as a contiguous region.

12 AUDITOR FABER: So Mr. Chairmen, a  
13 follow-up. The converse to that is also true.  
14 Currently, Preble County comes in and partners  
15 with Trotwood. Preble County is a pretty high  
16 Republican-indexed area. Should Preble County  
17 also then be district primarily in an area that  
18 packs those people together, or should we goal to  
19 try and separate that into two 50-50 districts,  
20 where by very nature then you're going to be  
21 putting people with somebody who isn't like them?

22 MR. KRUG: Yeah. I mean, so to be  
23 getting into the granular details of exactly how  
24 this map should be done, I don't think is  
25 something that you and I can sort out here during

1 this testimony. It would involve sitting down in  
2 front of a map and, again, involving the citizens  
3 affected by the map.

4 AUDITOR FABER: I appreciate that, and I  
5 appreciate you coming forward and sharing your  
6 thoughts. That's why I wanted to -- I'm trying to  
7 get specifics as to where we could make lines to  
8 move to get compromise.

9 MR. KRUG: I'm sure that we could connect  
10 you with folks who would be able to express their  
11 views on those particular regions, if that's  
12 something that Commission requests.

13 AUDITOR FABER: Thank you.

14 MR. KRUG: If I may, just also an  
15 additional follow-up, I didn't include it, but I  
16 heard it being discussed by this Commission.  
17 There were questions about the way in which the  
18 Dave's Redistricting app data are formed and the  
19 reliability, perhaps, of those data and also about  
20 relying on the hard numbers and a 50-50 cutoff for  
21 when a district would go to one political party or  
22 the other.

23 It is entirely possible to create a very  
24 simple model, where you could say that the  
25 probability that a particular candidate of a given

1 party is going to win a district slides according  
2 to the partisan lean of the community, and that's  
3 what I did in calculating my efficiency gap  
4 numbers.

5 The Dave's Redistricting app numbers,  
6 Senator Antani, they come from -- it's a mean of  
7 three means. So it's a mean of all of the  
8 partywide election results at the President level,  
9 at the Governor's and Attorney General level, and  
10 at the United States Senate level. Those are all  
11 individually averaged together, then those three  
12 averages are themselves averaged together to  
13 create a composite number that is taken as an  
14 indicator of partisan lean for each precinct.

15 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any additional  
16 questions?

17 Senator Antani.

18 SENATOR ANTANI: Great to know the Dave's  
19 Redistricting, but, I mean, again, I think an  
20 election for Governor is very different than an  
21 election for the General Assembly. And, you know,  
22 using, you know, the party voter index might be  
23 more accurate, but, again, good to know.

24 So you did say in your testimony that you  
25 wanted Trotwood and Jefferson and maybe Jackson --

1 I missed if it was Jefferson or Jackson Township  
2 -- with that --

3 MR. KRUG: Jefferson Township.

4 SENATOR ANTANI: Jefferson Township.  
5 Okay.

6 MR. KRUG: And to clarify, it's not what  
7 I want. It's what they told me they want.

8 SENATOR ANTANI: Sure. Sure. So and  
9 these are very rough numbers. Trotwood is at  
10 about 25,000. Jefferson is at 21. And so in  
11 order to create a House district, you know, you  
12 need about 60, 65, 68 from the city of Dayton.  
13 City of Dayton is 137. So that would then mean  
14 the city of Dayton is now split in half. Is that  
15 what you are asking for?

16 MR. KRUG: My opinion, considering the  
17 numbers that you just cited, is it will have to be  
18 cut into two districts, if there is a goal of  
19 creating a proportional map, and exactly where  
20 that cut is drawn should take into consideration  
21 the desires of the residents of those communities.

22 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman?

23 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes.

24 SENATOR ANTANI: And I guess my only  
25 question is if, you know, again, our principle is

1 to try to keep communities whole. The city of  
2 Dayton is a community, but you're now saying you  
3 would rather see it split in half.

4 MR. KRUG: I think that you just told me  
5 that it's population exceeds the size of a  
6 district.

7 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman?

8 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes.

9 SENATOR ANTANI: It does, but you can try  
10 to keep as many Daytonians together as you can.  
11 But in your proposal, you have to split it in  
12 half.

13 MR. KRUG: So perhaps I spoke  
14 imprecisely. I didn't mean as close to 50 percent  
15 of the residents should be in each district. I  
16 think that some logical and fair line could be  
17 found about which to divide the city of Dayton.

18 SENATOR ANTANI: Okay. It's not  
19 possible.

20 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any additional  
21 questions or comments? Thank you very much.

22 MR. KRUG: Thank you.

23 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: F. Mark  
24 Laskovics.

25 Please state and spell your name, please.

1 MR. LASKOVICS: Mark, M-a-r-k, Laskovics,  
2 L-a-s-k-o-v, as in Victor, i-c-s.

3 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you.

4 MR. LASKOVICS: I want to thank Speaker  
5 Cupp and Senator Sykes, Co-Chairmen of the  
6 Commission, and the Commission for allowing me to  
7 speak today.

8 I am Mark Laskovics. I live in  
9 Montgomery, Ohio, which is a northeast suburb of  
10 Cincinnati. I'm in the 28th Ohio House district,  
11 the 8th Ohio Senate district, and the 1st U.S.  
12 Congressional district, all created by  
13 gerrymandering.

14 This Commission has proposed the voting  
15 district maps, which, to me, look more  
16 gerrymandered than our current districts, and you  
17 have heard the numbers. I'm not going to repeat  
18 them, but basically, the proposed maps fall short  
19 in three critical areas; proportionality, minority  
20 representation, and compactness.

21 Whether on the proportionality side, you  
22 have the percentage could be argued, you know.  
23 It's 46 percent Democratic voters in the state, 53  
24 percent, 54 percent, and the current membership of  
25 the House is basically 66, 67 percent Republicans

1 and 32 percent Democrats. So it's out of  
2 proportion.

3 Minority representation in official maps  
4 appear to be inappropriately packed with  
5 minorities in Ohio House districts. For example,  
6 House Districts 24 and 25 in Cincinnati have a  
7 surplus of population, as well as significant  
8 percentages of minority populations.

9 While the surpluses are within legally-  
10 allowable limits, concentrating minority  
11 populations into fewer districts can affect  
12 diversity and election results.

13 And the members promoting the officially-  
14 proposed maps, as far as I understand it, stated  
15 that, for the record, they failed to examine  
16 racial composition in their maps. This omission  
17 is just not correct. Federal Voting Act, minority  
18 communities, and all Ohio voters need to be taken  
19 into consideration.

20 And from a compactness perspective, Ohio  
21 House District 18 is an example of a district that  
22 performs poorly in compactness. It is actually up  
23 near Cleveland. Both in mathematical measurements  
24 and in failing to pass -- it just doesn't look --  
25 it doesn't pass the eyeball test.

1           As has been mentioned, there have been  
2 fair districts proposed by Mr. Wise of Cincinnati  
3 and Mr. Padmanabhan of Columbus, and they  
4 independently submitted these. They gave a good  
5 explanation on how they were generated, and I  
6 would recommend that this Commission use those  
7 maps as a basis for future restructuring.

8           I know in Montgomery, we are divided in  
9 half. Montgomery, Ohio, I'm in House District 28,  
10 and half of the city is in another district. Why  
11 is Montgomery divided in half? It makes no sense.  
12 The school system, we're all in the same school  
13 system with Blue Ash, and yet, it's divided. I  
14 would like to see that fixed in the future. Thank  
15 you very much, and I appreciate your time.

16           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Are  
17 there any questions? Thank you very much.  
18 Valerie Lee?

19           Please state and spell your name.

20           MS. LEE: Yes. Valerie Lee, L-e-e, V-a-  
21 l-e-r-i-e. Good? Okay. Good afternoon. My name  
22 is Valerie Lee. I'm from Trotwood, Ohio. I  
23 appreciate this opportunity to speak to this  
24 august body, Governor DeWine, members of the  
25 Redistricting Committee, and the audience of

1 supporters for fair districts.

2 It took a certain measure of hutzpah to  
3 appear before you wearing this shirt  
4 representative of that university to the north  
5 that's recognized as our ardent foe.

6 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: I didn't notice.

7 MS. LEE: Didn't notice? Okay. My  
8 choice of dress was purposeful, opening the door  
9 to presenting my thoughts on the topic under  
10 discussion as a sports metaphor.

11 I was in downtown Ann Arbor last night,  
12 and it was game night. That big letter M was in  
13 the sky, on the ground. It appeared in my dreams.  
14 I'm sure the same might be witnessed on the OSU  
15 campus on game night. The energy and enthusiasm  
16 were palpable and reflective of a community coming  
17 together in victory or defeat. They chose to  
18 attend University of Michigan. The faculty chose  
19 to teach at University of Michigan, and the  
20 community chose to be part of that communal  
21 spirit.

22 That same might be said of my community,  
23 the city of Trotwood. In a community mapping  
24 session, we identified common interest, common  
25 concerns, and common needs. Those needs cannot be

1 addressed because our voices have been silenced.  
2 Our legislative district, District 43, was created  
3 in such a way to diminish our input, leaving our  
4 community unrepresented.

5 Can you imagine taking a slice of  
6 University of Michigan and throwing it into  
7 Buckeye Nation? That portrays what has happened  
8 with our gerrymandered and noncompetitive  
9 district, District 43, since we have been kind of  
10 just thrown into Preble County.

11 You, the members of the Redistricting  
12 Commission, had a role to play in putting this  
13 runaway train back on track. It's up to you to be  
14 a truly representative body and create fair  
15 districts so our legislators can be the megaphone  
16 for we, the people. Thank you.

17 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Are  
18 there any questions? Mia Lewis?

19 MIA LEWIS: Hello. My name is Mia Lewis.  
20 It's M-i-a L-e-w-i-s. Co-Chair Speaker Cupp and  
21 Senator Sykes, members of the Ohio Redistricting  
22 Commission, thank you for the opportunity to  
23 testify today.

24 My name is Mia Lewis, and I am here on  
25 behalf of Common Cause Ohio, a nonpartisan good

1 government group with 30,000 members that has been  
2 a central part of the fight for fair maps and fair  
3 elections for decades.

4 The maps adopted for formal consideration  
5 by the majority on the Commission are an affront  
6 to the people of Ohio. They violate the rules  
7 that you yourselves made and committed to.

8 How do I know? Because Common Cause was  
9 there. We were part of the negotiations when the  
10 new rules for drawing Ohio's House and Senate  
11 districts were created. Our Executive Director  
12 Catherine Turcer, along with Senator Huffman,  
13 Senator Sykes, academics, experts and legislators  
14 went round after round to create the proposal that  
15 state legislators overwhelmingly approved in  
16 December 2014.

17 That proposed amendment was placed on the  
18 ballot in 2015, endorsed by both parties, and then  
19 won in every single Ohio county with over 72  
20 percent approval statewide.

21 And what were those new rules? And how  
22 do your proposed maps measure up on those rules?  
23 Let's see. There was bipartisan mapmaking process  
24 -- that hasn't happened -- transparency throughout  
25 the process -- that hasn't happened -- meaningful

1 opportunities for public participation. We do  
2 appreciate these regional hearings, but the  
3 proposed maps do not reflect the public input that  
4 you have received.

5           Minimizing splits to keep communities  
6 together, and the officially proposed maps do  
7 manage to do that. Adherence to all state and  
8 federal law, including the Voting Rights Act, and  
9 in failing to keep (sic) the needs of minority  
10 populations into consideration, the maps under  
11 official consideration are in clear violation of  
12 state and federal law.

13           And, of course, the requirement for  
14 representational fairness so that the maps mirror  
15 the partisan breakdown in how Ohioans have voted  
16 over the previous decade.

17           I want to be clear that I'm speaking to  
18 the members of the Commission who voted to approve  
19 these working drafts. As you can see, your maps  
20 score very poorly. In fact, they succeed in only  
21 one out of six requirements.

22           So and some Commission members even  
23 admitted that for some of these requirements they  
24 didn't even try. A lot of people here today have  
25 spoken about representational fairness, and let's

1 take that as an example.

2 It's a really, really central part of the  
3 2015 reform because there is no clearer or more  
4 direct way to prevent gerrymandering than to say  
5 that the predicted outcome of the new districts  
6 must reflect the way Ohioans have voted over the  
7 past 10 years.

8 It's basically a way to say,  
9 "Gerrymandering is not allowed. If the lines  
10 create districts that don't reflect the partisan  
11 breakdown of Ohioans vote, then they aren't  
12 allowed. End of story."

13 And as many other people testifying today  
14 have spoken, the ratios of the maps that you have  
15 proposed are just completely off. They're not  
16 even close, and as you know, the requirement for  
17 representational fairness is not optional. It's  
18 there in black and white in the Ohio Constitution,  
19 Article XI, Section 6(b).

20 And, "The statewide proportion of  
21 districts whose voters, based on statewide and  
22 federal partisan general election results during  
23 the last 10 years, favor each political party  
24 shall correspond closely to the statewide  
25 preferences of the voters of Ohio."

1 I would offer to explain all that to you,  
2 but as all of you either wrote it, passed it on to  
3 the ballot, endorsed it, or voted on it, I'm sure  
4 that that is not necessary. Your maps fail the  
5 test of representational fairness. In a word,  
6 they are gerrymandered.

7 And how did that happen? You just simply  
8 chose to ignore one of the most basic rules -- and  
9 actually several of the rules -- that are part of  
10 the redistricting reform of 2015, and in opting  
11 not to follow the rules clearly laid out in the  
12 Ohio Constitution and in federal law, you are  
13 thumbing your nose at the enormous majority of  
14 Ohio voters who passed these reforms in a  
15 landslide.

16 You are disregarding and disrespecting  
17 Ohio's African American and other minority  
18 populations. You are thumbing your nose at the  
19 literally hundreds of Ohioans who have testified  
20 in previous hearings. You are basically saying,  
21 "We really don't care about fairness. We don't  
22 care about the law. We don't care about  
23 representative democracy."

24 And it doesn't have to be this way. As  
25 the Fair Districts Mapping Competition shows, it

1 is quite possible with good faith and a bit of  
2 effort to draw maps that are fair, that avoid  
3 spreading political subdivisions, and that keep  
4 communities together and that are more competitive  
5 and that bring all voices into the democratic  
6 process, rather than shutting them out.

7 With the deadline for adopting Ohio House  
8 and Senate maps coming up in just three days, we  
9 would like to suggest the obvious. The Ohio  
10 Redistricting Commission should set your maps  
11 aside and instead adopt one of the two winning  
12 maps from the Fair Districts Mapping Competition  
13 for formal consideration.

14 The maps submitted for the competition  
15 are altogether superior. They more closely comply  
16 with the constitutional criteria. They are  
17 constitutional. They are fair. They are legal.  
18 They are inclusive, which none of yours are.  
19 Bipartisan mapmaking is challenging, but Ohioans  
20 are tired of business as usual and would like to  
21 see a true deliberative process.

22 The Commission should use these upcoming  
23 public hearings to individually review each of the  
24 districts of any proposed map and consider  
25 possible improvements. I urge you to engage in

1 the public debate and deliberation about each  
2 district and create maps that reflect the Ohio  
3 Constitution and demonstrate bipartisan mapmaking.  
4 Thank you.

5 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Are  
6 there any questions? Thank you very much.

7 MS. LEWIS: Yeah.

8 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Jo Lovelace?

9 MS. LOVELACE HILL: So you didn't ask me  
10 to spell my name. Was it that easy?

11 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Would you state  
12 and spell your name please?

13 MS. LOVELACE HILL: Okay. My name is Jo.  
14 My last name is Lovelace Hill, L-O-V-E-L-A-C-E, no  
15 hyphen, H-i-l-l. I had written out something  
16 today, but when I was listening to everyone,  
17 everyone is saying the same thing. And you all  
18 are asking the same question.

19 All we're asking is that for you to be  
20 fair. I live in Harrison Township. I live in  
21 District 43, and I am grouped also with Preble  
22 County, which my community has nothing in common.

23 All we are asking is that you take one  
24 step back, rethink, relook at your own map, and do  
25 what Matthew said, talk to the people who are

1 involved. Give us an opportunity to talk to you.

2 That's all that I'm asking. Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Any  
4 additional questions? Thank you. Collin Marozzi?

5 MR. MAROZZI: Okay. Okay.

6 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Before you  
7 start, we're told that the clapping makes it  
8 difficult for the streaming, the hearing of the  
9 testimony. So we're asking you again, would you  
10 please curtail that?

11 MR. MAROZZI: Well, good evening,  
12 Commissioners. My name is Collin Marozzi, C-o-l-  
13 l-i-n M-a-r-o-z-z-I, and I am a policy strategies  
14 with the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.  
15 And thank you for the opportunity to testify on  
16 the introduced General Assembly District Map Plan.

17 The General Assembly Map Plan that is  
18 being considered by this Commission is fatally  
19 flawed. My testimony will focus on the failure of  
20 this proposed map to take into account the Voting  
21 Rights Act and the failure of the proposed map to  
22 comply with Section 6 requirements.

23 Section 3(b)(2) requires any adopted  
24 General Assembly map to comply with the U.S.  
25 Constitution, the Ohio Constitution, and federal

1 law. The Voting Rights Act is federal law. The  
2 Voting Rights Act protects minorities from having  
3 their right to vote, including minority vote  
4 dilution through gerrymandering, denied by state  
5 and local governments.

6 In order to comply with the Ohio  
7 Constitution and federal law, the Commission must  
8 conduct analysis on the map's effect on minority  
9 representation. This is even more necessary given  
10 the demographic shifts in Ohio's population  
11 according to the 2020 census.

12 This Commission must do its due diligence  
13 and analyze this proposed map to ensure compliance  
14 with the Voting Rights Act and present those  
15 findings to the public.

16 Second, the disproportionate partisan  
17 advantage of these proposed General Assembly  
18 districts clearly violates Article XI, Section  
19 6(b), which says, "The statewide proportion of  
20 districts whose voters, based on statewide state  
21 and federal partisan election results during the  
22 last 10 years, favor each political party shall  
23 correspond closely to the statewide preferences of  
24 the Ohio voters."

25 This proposed map perpetuates and extends

1 the gerrymander-created supermajorities that  
2 currently exist in both the House and the Senate.  
3 The people of Ohio demanded better in 2015. You  
4 have heard from hundreds of Ohioans during these  
5 hearings calling on this Commission to create  
6 fairer maps, and instead of listening to the pleas  
7 of your constituents, this Commission has doubled  
8 down.

9           Is this what the members of this  
10 Commission promised when you voted for and  
11 sponsored HJR 12? Is this what millions of  
12 Ohioans voted for? Is this what was promised in  
13 2015? No. It isn't.

14           I will say it again. The splitting rules  
15 of Sections 3 and 4 are only a means to an end.  
16 Compliance with Section 6 is the true goal and the  
17 guiding principle Article XI, and creating a map  
18 that honors Section 6 is the only way that this  
19 Commission will have legitimacy in the eyes of  
20 Ohio voters.

21           The proposed General Assembly District  
22 Plan, again, violates Section 6(a), which also  
23 proves that "no General Assembly District Plan  
24 shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a  
25 political party." The protection of incumbents in

1 the Senate plan and the strategic pairing of  
2 incumbent representatives in newly created House  
3 districts reveals that this proposed plan was  
4 drawn to disfavor a political party.

5           You can't say this map was drawn to keep  
6 communities together when you slice Trotwood off  
7 from Dayton and bury it in Preble and Butler  
8 Counties. Not when the city of Youngstown -- I'm  
9 sorry -- is in a Senate district with rural  
10 Carroll County but not other valley metros like  
11 Niles and Warren. And not when you pull Dublin  
12 out of Franklin County and stick it with Union  
13 County.

14           Those are not communities of interest.  
15 The map wasn't drawn to be more competitive.  
16 According to Dave's Redistricting app, both the  
17 proposed House map and Senate map are less  
18 competitive than either current map.

19           Nor was the map drawn to be more compact,  
20 as Dave's Redistricting scores both the proposed  
21 House and Senate maps as equally or slightly less  
22 compact using the Reock and Polsby-Popper metrics.

23           The sad fact is, other than the  
24 allocation of General Assembly seats to the  
25 majority party, it's hard to find a quantifiable

1 measure where the proposed House and Senate maps  
2 outperform our current maps. This is not what the  
3 people of Ohio earned when they went to the ballot  
4 in 2015. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any  
5 questions.

6 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Are  
7 there any questions? Senator -- Auditor Faber?

8 AUDITOR FABER: Any title is fine. I'm  
9 going to talk about the first thing you talked  
10 about was minority representation, and I agree, in  
11 the past, we have taken great pains to try where  
12 we can draw minority influence or minority-  
13 majority districts.

14 But my understanding -- and the UCLU  
15 certainly would be a better expert on this than I  
16 am because I have never had to litigate these type  
17 of issues -- but my understanding is, is the first  
18 predicate before you can consider race as a factor  
19 in drawing districts -- meaning you're going to  
20 consider it, by its very nature discriminate, one  
21 way in favor or against a minority population --  
22 is you have to show some evidence that the  
23 minority community has not been able to select or  
24 have an impact in selecting representation.

25 And would you agree with me that the

1 current districts, the ones that everybody agrees  
2 are so bad, does a decent job giving minority  
3 representation in the General Assembly?

4 MR. MAROZZI: Well, through the Co-Chairs  
5 to Auditor Faber, I would say that my comments on  
6 the proposed General Assembly map plan and my  
7 comments, you know, I would say, asking for an  
8 analysis to be done of the Voting Rights Act with  
9 the map that is under consideration today stands  
10 as the fact that it was incomplete when it was  
11 originally introduced.

12 AUDITOR FABER: But going back to -- Mr.  
13 Chairman, going back to the ACLU's position and  
14 making sure I understand it, right now, currently,  
15 there are 21 out of 132 members of the General  
16 Assembly are minority. That's roughly 15.9  
17 percent of the General Assembly, far higher than  
18 the percent of minorities in Ohio.

19 Again, I don't think there ought to be  
20 any component that leads to any -- frankly,  
21 minorities could be 50 percent, if that's what the  
22 voters decide. We ought not have any  
23 discrimination in Ohio, period.

24 My question is though before we  
25 intentionally go in and draw minority-majority or

1 minority-influenced districts, is there a  
2 requirement that we show that there have been some  
3 racial disparity (sic) in the ability of those  
4 communities to elect a minority member? And my  
5 question is, do you have any evidence of that?

6 And isn't that the standard that the  
7 federal courts have set pretty clearly in places  
8 that are under Voting Rights Act restrictions,  
9 like Ohio, that you show before you use race as a  
10 factor when you draw districts?

11 Again, I don't know this area well  
12 enough. I'm asking you guys as the experts in  
13 this component.

14 MR. MAROZZI: Well, again, through the  
15 Co-Chairs to Auditor Faber, I guess I would just  
16 say, again, that it is not the ACLU's duty to  
17 create the justification for this Commission. It  
18 is the Commission's responsibility to share that  
19 and to comply on your own accord with the Voting  
20 Rights Act.

21 I'm not saying it has or it hasn't. I'm  
22 saying that the original testimony on this  
23 proposed map was incomplete because it said that  
24 the Voting Rights Act was not taken into account.

25 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Senator Antani.

1           SENATOR ANTANI: Mr. Co-Chair. Sorry,  
2 I'm used to calling him Senator. Thank you for  
3 your testimony, and so you, again, also  
4 referenced, you know, the issue of Trotwood. I  
5 don't think you mentioned Jefferson Township, but  
6 Trotwood being split from Dayton.

7           And so, you know, hypothetically  
8 speaking, if your only concerns is Trotwood -- and  
9 we're not talking about (indiscernible) -- so  
10 Trotwood is still in and around 25,000 in this  
11 decennial census. That would then cause a further  
12 split of Dayton.

13           And so I guess my question is, is that  
14 the ACLU's position is that to just have more of a  
15 split in Dayton to have Trotwood in the same  
16 district as residents of the city of Dayton?

17           MR. MAROZZI: Well, through the Co-Chairs  
18 and to Senator Antani, I think that's a false  
19 choice. There are four wholly contained -- I  
20 believe. Let me get my map out here. Yes. There  
21 are four wholly-contained House districts in  
22 Montgomery County.

23           That means that there's three other House  
24 districts that can be split other than Dayton, and  
25 I don't think that in order for Trotwood and for

1 Jefferson Township to have meaningful  
2 representation, I think you don't have to split  
3 Dayton in order to achieve that.

4 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow up, Mr. Chairman.

5 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes.

6 SENATOR ANTANI: And I'm sorry. I do not  
7 have a written copy of your testimony. So I was  
8 following along. I thought you had said the  
9 ACLU's position was to have Trotwood and Jefferson  
10 Township with the city of Dayton. Am I not  
11 correct on that?

12 MR. MAROZZI: Through the Co-Chairs and  
13 to Senator Antani, those comments were based on  
14 the premise that they were not in a district in  
15 Montgomery County but rather in Preble and Butler  
16 Counties. So it would kind of be like if you  
17 looked to Summit County and have both those urban  
18 districts in the city of Akron. That would, to  
19 say, be equivalent to have only one district in  
20 the city of Akron and then another district into  
21 an adjoining county. You can have both.

22 SENATOR ANTANI: Follow up, Mr. Chairman.

23 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes.

24 SENATOR ANTANI: I'm still having trouble  
25 understanding. So there's many things you can do.

1 Right. Is your point not having Trotwood and  
2 Jefferson Township with Preble County, or is your  
3 point in not having -- and, actually, by the way,  
4 in the map I think Jefferson Township is no longer  
5 with Preble County.

6 But is your point in not having Trotwood  
7 with Preble County or is your point in having  
8 Trotwood with the city of Dayton? Does that make  
9 sense? So those are two choices.

10 MR. MAROZZI: Through the co-chairs and  
11 to Senator Antani, my point at the end of the day  
12 is that the people of Trotwood are not a community  
13 of interest with the people of Preble and Butler  
14 Counties.

15 SENATOR ANTANI: Okay. So Trotwood and  
16 Preble. Got it.

17 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any other  
18 questions?

19 One question I have is how do you  
20 calculate the statewide preferences of voters in  
21 Ohio? As specified here in this Section 6(b), how  
22 do you come up with that proportion?

23 MR. MAROZZI: Thank you, Co-Chairman  
24 Sykes. So I gave testimony to this Commission in  
25 Mansfield on August 27th, and in that testimony, I

1 talked about how we had simply run a very basic  
2 analysis of election results from every statewide  
3 partisan election from 2012 to 2020. You look at  
4 those findings, and then you simply average them  
5 together.

6 And what you get there and what has been  
7 a, you know, I would say consensus among those  
8 that have commented on how to calculate what is  
9 described in Section 6(b) is you get a 55-45 split  
10 in partisan preferences.

11 Now, that tells me that those percentages  
12 should closely correspond to the percentages of  
13 the number of seats each party has in the General  
14 Assembly, as reading Section 6(b), which says,  
15 "the proportion of districts whose voters favor a  
16 political party."

17 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Okay. Any  
18 additional questions? Thank you.

19 SENATOR ANTANI: Sorry. Co-Chair?

20 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes. Yes. Oh,  
21 okay.

22 SENATOR ANTANI: Just to follow up on  
23 that -- and I think that that's a plausible  
24 reading of that section -- but I go back and ask  
25 the question that I know others have brought up,

1 how do you deal with competitive seats?

2 Because there's no way for me to  
3 determine a district, and I would say a  
4 competitive seat is anywhere between 45 and 55  
5 because candidates matter. Elections matter.  
6 Races matter. Communities of interest matter.  
7 All those things can say numbers.

8 So if I go through and just pull out all  
9 the places that we can draw -- because I always  
10 thought that was the goal, if you're going to try  
11 to draw districts, that you draw competitive  
12 seats.

13 For all the testimony we have heard over  
14 the last month and a half or however long we have  
15 been taking testimony, people don't want to be --  
16 they want the primaries not to decide the general  
17 election. They want people to have to be  
18 responsible to constituencies.

19 And so if the goal is to draw competitive  
20 districts and the way Ohioans tend to live around  
21 people that think like them, which means certainly  
22 when you're keeping counties intact and cities  
23 intact and townships intact, it becomes very  
24 difficult to get to those kind of ratios without  
25 knowing how those competitive seats are going to

1 line up.

2 I just did an analysis -- and we have  
3 done the same analysis -- frankly, I wish I had --  
4 the proponents of the Republican maps, the House  
5 and Senate Republican maps, they would give us  
6 their competitive index data. But I did my own  
7 back-of-the-envelope calculation.

8 And if you take out the competitive  
9 seats, then you have got -- if you use your  
10 analysis, maybe someplace to go. But I don't know  
11 how you would do an analysis with competitive  
12 seats because I'm going to have to pre-predict  
13 who's going to win all those races that we all  
14 know campaigns matter.

15 And so that's what I'm trying to get some  
16 guidance from you guys as to how you dealt with  
17 those competitive seats. And, frankly, I think  
18 you guys have argued before you want more  
19 competitive seats, not less.

20 MR. MAROZZI: Through the co-chairs and,  
21 again, to Auditor Faber, admittedly, this is, you  
22 know, in my personal opinion, a shortcoming of  
23 Article XI because it does not mention  
24 competitiveness. The language does not mentioned  
25 competitiveness. It mentions proportionality. It

1 mentions compactness. It does not mention  
2 competitive, you know.

3 I believe competitive elections are  
4 certainly an aspirational goal that this  
5 Commission should, you know, try to achieve. But  
6 as my reading of Article XI, competitive districts  
7 is not a requirement.

8 SENATOR ANTANI: So Mr. Chairman?

9 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Yes.

10 SENATOR ANTANI: All the testimony we  
11 have heard talking about the downstroke problems  
12 of having too many Republicans or too many  
13 Democrats or having easy primaries, your view --  
14 and the ACLU's view -- is that's not a concern for  
15 the Constitution. That may be a concern that if  
16 we can, in a perfect world, land with, but that's  
17 not a concern we need to draft districts from.

18 MR. MAROZZI: Well, through the co-  
19 chairs, again, to Auditor Faber, I wouldn't say  
20 it's my view. I would say it's my reading of  
21 Article XI.

22 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you.

23 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any additional  
24 questions? Thank you.

25 SENATOR ANTANI: Mr. Co-Chair?

1 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Antani.

2 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

3 One more question based on the Auditor's  
4 question. I think, you know, based on his  
5 question, the real question is, how do you  
6 determine which way a competitive seat leans? And  
7 under the data that you use, what was determined  
8 as a competitive seat? Right.

9 So, you know, if we use the three means  
10 of the three different sort of races of, you know,  
11 the presidential, gubernatorial, senatorial,  
12 attorney general, et cetera, you know, that's one  
13 way to do it. But if you are in that and, you  
14 know, I think Secretary LaRose said 48 to 52. The  
15 Auditor is at 45 to 55. We can, you know, split  
16 the pickle, you know. Those are toss-up seats.  
17 Right.

18 And I think if you look at, you know, any  
19 sort of PVI rating, you know, a toss-up is a toss-  
20 up. And the question is, is where did you put  
21 those in the lean Dem or lean Republican? Because  
22 I would remind you, the 43rd District this past  
23 cycle was won by 138 votes, I think, and has been  
24 competitive in the past.

25 And so, you know, that's a Republican

1 seat, but, I mean, my gosh, 138 votes. I don't  
2 know how you put that in anybody's column.

3 MR. MAROZZI: Through the co-chairs and  
4 to Senator Antani, I would have to ask,  
5 unfortunately: could you restate the question?

6 SENATOR ANTANI: How did you determine --  
7 or where did you put the competitive seats? What  
8 was your cutoff for a competitive seat? So is it  
9 a, you know, PVI or whatever that Dave's  
10 Redistricting wants to call it, the three means?  
11 Is it exactly 50-50, and if there's 1 percent or 1  
12 vote in 1 precinct more, that is a Republican seat  
13 or a Democrat seat? I guess, how did you put, you  
14 know, those seats that are in that 48 to 52  
15 spectrum?

16 MR. MAROZZI: Well, through the co-  
17 chairs, I guess I would say that I didn't put them  
18 there. I looked at Dave's Redistricting app, and  
19 it put it there.

20 SENATOR ANTANI: So we don't know. Okay.

21 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Senator? Thank  
22 you very much.

23 SENATOR ANTANI: Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: One comment I  
25 would like to make is that it's also incumbent

1 upon this Commission to provide some specificity  
2 as relates to certain parameters of  
3 competitiveness, you know. We should roll up our  
4 sleeves, as well, and make some determinations and  
5 provide some guidance.

6 We appreciate the input that we are  
7 receiving. It is helping us with our  
8 deliberations, but we also have a responsibility  
9 to make some determinations. And hopefully, we  
10 can do that, as we should, as we move forward.

11 The next witness is Ann Mercer  
12 (phonetic).

13 Ariel Miller?

14 MS. MILLER: Chairs and Commissioners,  
15 hi. How are you? You have been very hardworking  
16 today, and I'm sure that you're tired. If I were  
17 you, I would want to stand up and turn around a  
18 little bit.

19 I want to thank you for giving us this  
20 time on a Sunday afternoon. My name is Ariel  
21 Miller, A-r-i-e-l, M-i-l-l-e-r. I'm a retired  
22 lady from Cincinnati, Ohio. I spent my career  
23 working with the Episcopal Diocese of Southern  
24 Ohio, which goes from Troy to Martins Ferry.

25 So that meant I fell in love with people

1 in urban, rural, and suburban parts of the state,  
2 who had very, very different view, but our common  
3 ground was that we were trying to love each other  
4 and to love God. And so I really appreciated the  
5 way you began this hearing, Secretary LaRose, by  
6 talking about where could be the common ground and  
7 the civility.

8 I think you seven people are the most  
9 important leaders in the state this week. What  
10 you are trying to do is terribly important. It's  
11 September 12th. We are trying to resurrect  
12 American democracy, and you can help us do it.

13 I have faith in you. I don't think that  
14 you have made a good start, and I wrote some very  
15 cranky testimony. But I think you can still  
16 salvage it.

17 Let me be specific. Governor, when we  
18 started the pandemic, I felt you wanted every  
19 single one of us to survive, including people who  
20 would never vote for you. Secretary LaRose, I  
21 felt that the election in 2020 was a magnificent  
22 achievement.

23 I felt that election officials locally  
24 and at the state level really did everything they  
25 could to make voters understand their votes

1 counted and would be counted. It's a huge  
2 achievement. So now you need to be able to do  
3 that again.

4 I think that the Ohio Citizens'  
5 Redistricting Commission have given you a get-out-  
6 of-jail pass. I think that the map that they have  
7 developed followed a process that would do what I  
8 think you would like to be remembered for doing,  
9 which is to restore faith in our political  
10 process.

11 They started in May. They had hearings.  
12 They taught people how the new rules work. They  
13 got people busy thinking about communities of  
14 interest. They collected all of that  
15 documentation.

16 They had Ohio State professors, who  
17 crunched the numbers as soon as the census data  
18 were available, and they got a map done with a  
19 report by the first of September, which was the  
20 constitutional deadline. They explained how they  
21 met the criteria in the Constitution, and they did  
22 this all in a way that was respectful and built  
23 trust.

24 So you could defy expectations and  
25 transcend partisanship and start with their map

1 and say to the voters of Ohio, we are here for all  
2 of you. We want all of you to be heard and to  
3 count, and we are not going to fall into the  
4 expectations and stereotypes that you have of us  
5 that we're going to be partisan.

6           Wouldn't that be exciting? Wouldn't you  
7 like to be remembered as the seven people who  
8 rebuilt our democracy and made us believe in our  
9 state government again? Please do that. Thank  
10 you.

11           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any questions?

12           Thank you very much.

13           At this time, if there's no objections,  
14 we're going to take a five-minute break. This is  
15 not the usual legislative more or less. This is  
16 going to be no more than five minutes.

17           (Recess)

18           CO-CHAIR CUPP: We're coming back to  
19 order. The hearing was scheduled to run until  
20 7:00. I see we have about 10 minutes left, so  
21 that we have, obviously, not going to get to  
22 everyone.

23           So we're not going to be able to conclude  
24 on time, but what I would like to do is encourage  
25 everyone not to repeat something that somebody

1 else said. So you could just say I agree with  
2 somebody who said this and then move on. That  
3 will enable more people to be able to provide  
4 their input here today.

5 So we will now start with Chantel Raghu.

6 MS. RAGHU: Hello. Thank you --

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Welcome.

8 MS. RAGHU: Thank you for allowing me to  
9 speak to you. My name is Chantel Raghu, C-h-a-n-  
10 t-e-l, R-a-g-h-u. I vote in the 53rd House  
11 District, 4th Senate District, and 8th  
12 Congressional District in the city of Oxford.

13 I would like to discuss the issue of the  
14 submitted maps for redistricting. For the past  
15 four years, I have served as a city council member  
16 in Oxford. I am constantly working towards  
17 building political engagement and public  
18 participation because I know that we work better  
19 when all of us are involved.

20 The submitted maps are not meeting the  
21 basic tenants as expressed by so many people  
22 before me, and I won't repeat them. These  
23 hyperpartisan districts will further  
24 disenfranchise and alienate residents away from  
25 becoming more involved in their government.

1           When elections already have predetermined  
2 winners based on the way districts have been  
3 drawn, this lowers voter turnout and engagement.  
4 When we have a political system that is rigged for  
5 certain winners and certain losers, we feed the  
6 apathy that is a rot in our democracy.

7           The majority party, who submitted these  
8 maps, is trading short-term gains for a long-term  
9 injury to our Constitution and instills further  
10 distrust in our government that is not fairly  
11 representing its people. Creating districts that  
12 ensure one party certain victory is a clear path  
13 to creating more radical and extremist candidates  
14 that are less responsive to the people they  
15 represent.

16           In the recent past, my 53rd District was  
17 an example of such behavior, extremist behavior  
18 that was not condoned, even by the political party  
19 that this person claimed as their own, extremist  
20 behavior that led to bullying of this  
21 Representatives own residents, my residents, if  
22 they disagreed with their opinions.

23           As I serve on city council, I have a duty  
24 to my neighbors. Gerrymandering takes away the  
25 responsibility and obligation our elected

1 officials have to us, and I would argue it will  
2 also damage the political parties themselves, as  
3 the parties become increasingly more partisan and  
4 extreme.

5 I believe in competition when it comes to  
6 the free market, and I believe in competition when  
7 it comes to elections. Fair districts and  
8 competition with the best person winning the  
9 election is the only way to keep our state great.  
10 Thank you for your time and consideration of my  
11 request.

12 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you, Chantel.  
13 Don't see any questions. I appreciate your  
14 testimony.

15 Tommie Radd is next.

16 DR. RADD: Hello, Co-Chairs and  
17 Commission. My name is Dr. Tommie R. Radd. I  
18 vote in Ohio Senate District 3, House District 19,  
19 and Congressional District 3. I testified on  
20 August 27th in Mansfield and on September 9th in  
21 Columbus and submitted testimony.

22 The reason I am here is to give public  
23 record feedback on the maps this Commission  
24 approved in a partisan 5-2 vote and voice my  
25 extreme disappointment in the Commission's

1    apparent inability to work in a bipartisan manner,  
2    follow the letter and spirit of the law, and  
3    follow the rules required in the 2015  
4    constitutional amendment voted by over 70 percent  
5    of the citizens of Ohio.

6           Based on nonpartisan fair districts  
7    analysis, your map of September 9th is  
8    unacceptable, especially in the areas of  
9    representative fairness, minority representation,  
10   and compactness explained as follows.

11           And then you have already heard the  
12   statistics that were brought up by the Dave's  
13   Redistricting app that shows extreme skewing of  
14   those results toward the Republican majority side  
15   in all of those categories; proportional  
16   representation in the House and Senate, minority  
17   representation, and compactness, and you have that  
18   in your written copy.

19           Your map discounts the gerrymandering  
20   issues impacting Gahanna, represented in public  
21   testimony on August 27th in Mansfield. Several  
22   Gahanna residents spoke to this problem, plus  
23   submitted a map for our community. Our input and  
24   requests were ignored.

25           These are examples. Racial

1 gerrymandering to the airport continues to be an  
2 issue. Stelzer Road is split down the middle.  
3 Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools are split between  
4 multiple districts.

5 In addition, the minority party proposed  
6 a map submitted on August 31st that addresses  
7 gerrymandering concerns per our testimony, and  
8 they made improvements by having no racial  
9 gerrymandering to the airport, representing all of  
10 Gahanna in one district, and drawing their lines  
11 along natural boundaries, such as the expressway.

12 The majority map submitted on September  
13 9th ignored Gahanna gerrymandering, discounted the  
14 minority map corrections, and continues the  
15 gerrymandering of Gahanna. The gerrymandering of  
16 Gahanna, my community, needs to stop.

17 Each Commission member is  
18 constitutionally responsible for the Ohio  
19 redistricting process, maps, and end results.  
20 Everyone on this Commission is accountable for the  
21 way you conduct yourselves and work transparently  
22 with the process. That hasn't happened.

23 You have intentionally proposed a map to  
24 continue giving the majority party a  
25 supermajority. Your maps insult our intelligence.

1 Your charge has to work -- your charge was to work  
2 together to produce fair, competitive maps.

3 Citizens with none of your resources,  
4 such as Dr. Geoff Wise, who testified on September  
5 9th, produced a fair option. Actions speak louder  
6 than words. It's shameful and dishonest what you  
7 are doing. We will not stand by quietly.

8 Gerrymandering is cheating. To  
9 gerrymander to create a supermajority in the Ohio  
10 House and Senate is wrong. That is the reason the  
11 citizens of Ohio stepped up to fix this problem  
12 and hold you accountable.

13 Ohioans voted for you to fix this  
14 unfairness and stand for all people now. This  
15 Redistricting Commission has a responsibility to  
16 draw fair maps with the letter and the spirit of  
17 our Ohio constitutional amendments, as demanded by  
18 the voters.

19 You have until September 15th to  
20 determine your legacy. How will your children,  
21 grandchildren, and the historians rate you? Will  
22 you be a cheater? Will you be a statesman? Your  
23 final map and vote will tell all the answer.  
24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Any questions for Dr.

1 Radd? Thank you for coming. You're quite an  
2 expert now. You have done this multiple times,  
3 so.

4 DR. RADD: I know. I thought you might  
5 miss me if I didn't come here.

6 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Next witness is Liz  
7 Regula (phonetic). Liz Regula?

8 All right. Chris Regg (phonetic)? I  
9 know I'm pronouncing that wrong.

10 All right. Pari Sabety? Welcome,  
11 Director.

12 DIRECTOR SABETY: Oh, why, thank you.

13 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Some of us go back a ways  
14 and remember those things. Yes.

15 DIRECTOR SABETY: Indeed, we do. It's a  
16 pleasure to be testifying before you again. Co-  
17 Chairs, Governor, and members of the Commission,  
18 thank you for allowing me to testify today.

19 I was going to spend some of my remarks  
20 addressing myself to Auditor Faber's question  
21 regarding fair representation, but since, by my  
22 count, eight out of ten people that have testified  
23 today have addressed that issue, so I will not do  
24 so.

25 I will say the following, however. The

1 word that was written into the Constitution about  
2 that Section (b) says shall, and when I was budget  
3 director, you folks all taught me shall means  
4 must, right.

5 So having said that, Republicans, based  
6 on Secretary of State LaRose's website, have won  
7 roughly 54 percent of the statewide share of votes  
8 across the last decade, and Democrats have won  
9 about 46 percent. So the proportion of districts  
10 favoring one party must correspond closely to  
11 those preferences.

12 My finance training makes me think in  
13 dollars and cents and wallet share. Over the last  
14 10 years, for Ohioans wallet share of votes, for  
15 every dollars of total votes cast in the state,  
16 Republicans earned \$0.54. But the wallet share  
17 for Republicans in the maps you have proposed  
18 hands \$0.66 to Republicans. That is not fair.

19 Now, I want to turn to the impact of  
20 these maps on my community. In Columbus, Ohio, I  
21 reside in the U-shaped District 7. It includes  
22 neighborhoods on the east and west sides of five  
23 major highways, State Route 315 and Interstates  
24 71, 670, 70, and 270. It stretches from the  
25 border of Hilliard at Trabue Road and I-270 on the

1 west to parts of Northland and Linden.

2 A quick scan of this district shows how  
3 this map you have voted on violates not just the  
4 spirit but the letter of the constitutional  
5 language we all voted on.

6 Proposed District 7 leaves out the  
7 neighborhood immediately adjacent to Whetstone  
8 High School, the Park of Roses, and the Whetstone  
9 Library, with the highest circulation numbers of  
10 any branch library in the Columbus Metropolitan  
11 Library System. This gem is part of the  
12 Clintonville community of interest.

13 The second impact is that Whetstone High  
14 School is now counted in the Worthington District  
15 8, which separates it from a town named  
16 Clintonville and virtually all of its feeder  
17 elementary and middle schools south of Whetstone  
18 in Clintonville, University District, Short North,  
19 and Central City, which are all part of another  
20 district, 7, the one I live in.

21 Included in the east end of District 7 is  
22 an area of the Northland Linden area that is cut  
23 off from the remainder of Northland and Linden and  
24 its local houses of worship, grocery stores, and  
25 bus lines. Northland and Linden are established,

1 growing communities of color in Columbus.

2           So how might we fix this? We could  
3 rejoin this neighborhood with the commercial  
4 corridor of Karl Road less than a mile to the  
5 east, which is an anchor to this community, but  
6 that wouldn't work because over this 1.5-mile  
7 stretch, Karl Road is split into three separate  
8 House districts -- sorry -- 7, 8, and 9.

9           Another problematic district line is  
10 split along East Cooke Road. Here, the line  
11 between Districts 7 and 8 is carefully drawn not  
12 down the middle of Cooke Road but on the north  
13 side, and it splits the homes almost exactly  
14 evenly between Districts 7 and 8.

15           Why is this a problem? Let me describe  
16 it to you. If you drove west on East Cooke Road  
17 looking to your left, the first 10 homes would be  
18 in District 7. The next 10 homes are in District  
19 8. The next 10 homes are in District 7. The next  
20 10 homes are in District 8. There is no rationale  
21 for lines drawn like this unless the map drawers  
22 are selecting those voters they want in their  
23 districts and doing it house by house.

24           These are just four examples in one  
25 district, where the Republican map drawers

1 consciously separate communities and split  
2 neighbor votes, and in so doing, have violated  
3 Sections (a), (b), and (c) of Article XI, Section  
4 6 of the Ohio Constitution.

5 So how must the Commission draw maps that  
6 are fair to Ohioans? We need to get communities  
7 of color true representation. We need to keep our  
8 communities together. That means schools, theater  
9 schools, commercial centers, houses of worship,  
10 and parks, and we need our maps to reflect the way  
11 Ohio voters vote.

12 We should have at least 44 Democratic  
13 House seats and 15 Democratic Senate seats. Thank  
14 you very much for your attention.

15 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Are there  
16 questions for the Director?

17 Leader Sykes.

18 LEADER SYKES: Hi. Thank you for coming  
19 in today. I know you are no stranger to  
20 testifying in front of panels like this, but in  
21 looking at this district that is U-shaped, what is  
22 in, I guess what I would say, the bowl of that --

23 DIRECTOR SABETY: The bowl? Oh.

24 LEADER SYKES: -- maybe District 11 that  
25 is keeping it all separated.

1                   DIRECTOR SABETY: Yes. So across the  
2 bowl -- I shortened this for my testimony -- that  
3 across that bowl it's Clintonville, Grandview  
4 Heights, Short North, University District  
5 stretching all the way to the west out all the way  
6 towards Hilliard. So it includes San Margherita,  
7 which is on the other side of 670. Is that  
8 helpful?

9                   LEADER SYKES: Yes. Thank you.

10                  DIRECTOR SABETY: Okay.

11                  CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

12                  DIRECTOR SABETY: Thank you.

13                  CO-CHAIR CUPP: Oh.

14                  SENATOR ANTANI: I had to flag. As I  
15 have tried to figure out how to accommodate these  
16 concerns, I looked at the Democrat maps, and it  
17 splits other areas. And one of the problems you  
18 have got when you have got communities, are these  
19 -- and I don't know this answer, Director -- are  
20 these areas that are still within the city of the  
21 Columbus, or are they in different political  
22 subdivisions?

23                  DIRECTOR SABETY: No. They're all in the  
24 city of Columbus.

25                  SENATOR ANTANI: So --

1           DIRECTOR SABETY: Wait a minute. I'm  
2 sorry. Before I answer that question, could you  
3 tell me what communities you are referring to?

4           SENATOR ANTANI: Well, you were talking  
5 about the split around Cooke Road. I zoomed in,  
6 one of the benefits -- I really wish, for future  
7 hearings, the Commission would actually have the  
8 maps up on the screen so that you could have  
9 zeroed in.

10          DIRECTOR SABETY: Yes. Since about 2004,  
11 there's been technology to allow you to put a GIS  
12 map up there that you could project, and we could  
13 actually use our fingers to move the lines.

14          SENATOR ANTANI: I would request that we  
15 do that because I'm trying to do that swapping  
16 between the various proposed maps. And looking at  
17 these communities, again, it looks like you have  
18 got Worthington. This area is situated in between  
19 Worthington, Upper Arlington, and -- again, I'm  
20 trying to pull it up. So I apologize. I know  
21 Minerva Park is in there somewhere.

22          DIRECTOR SABETY: Well, what I will tell  
23 you is that if you looked at the maps the Ohio  
24 Citizens' Redistricting Commission proposed or the  
25 maps Mr. Wise proposed or even the maps that the

1 Democrats proposed, all of them treat these  
2 communities of interest much better. In  
3 particular Linden and Northland, in the Democratic  
4 map, are kept together as the community that they  
5 should be.

6 So I'm not here to stand here at a podium  
7 and write a map when I'm not even looking at a  
8 map. Honestly, you are right. It puts us all at  
9 a disadvantage. However, the reality is you have  
10 plenty of great models to look at and start from.

11 SENATOR ANTANI: And, again,  
12 Mr. Chairman?

13 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes. You may proceed.

14 SENATOR ANTANI: I don't disagree, but I  
15 would -- looking at this even under Mr. Wise's  
16 competitive House map and a couple of others as I  
17 try and toggle, it looks like many of these same  
18 divisions are in some of those areas based on  
19 geographical or community lines.

20 But I looked at the competitive indexes.  
21 And, again, I wish we had the competitive indexes  
22 for the Republican legislatively-proposed maps,  
23 but we haven't seen those yet. So going off of  
24 the Dave's Redistricting competitive numbers, all  
25 three of those districts that you were talking

1 about people moving along are all pretty  
2 convincing Democrat districts.

3 And so I don't think there would be a  
4 political reason to move people along a street.  
5 So I'm curious as to if, as you say, that's what  
6 happened between those few districts, it really  
7 doesn't make a difference.

8 DIRECTOR SABETY: I have no idea. We did  
9 not draw that map. I believe that map was  
10 submitted by Mr. DiRossi. So we will have to ask  
11 him why it was drawn in that way.

12 SENATOR ANTANI: Again, I don't  
13 understand that, but I doubt it was political  
14 because the numbers seem to be consistent in both  
15 of them. So maybe there was some other reason  
16 we're missing.

17 DIRECTOR SABETY: Okay.

18 SENATOR ANTANI: But I would like to hear  
19 that answer as well.

20 DIRECTOR SABETY: Thank you very much.  
21 Any other questions?

22 CO-CHAIR CUPP: No. Thank you very much.

23 Next witness is Margaret Sammons,  
24 Reverend Margaret Sammons.

25 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: I am not Margaret

1 Sammons.

2 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Oh.

3 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: I am Reverend Brandi  
4 Slaughter. Reverend Sammons is a member of the  
5 Ohio Council of Churches, and she is unable to be  
6 here today because she is ill.

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Oh, okay. All right.

8 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: I don't want to take  
9 the time and read her testimony, however, because  
10 we are short on time. Is it permissible that I  
11 just go into my testimony --

12 (Cross talk)

13 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes. Yes, it is. Does  
14 she have written testimony to submit? Okay.

15 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: She does.

16 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Okay.

17 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: And it's been  
18 submitted.

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Thank you.

20 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: Thank you. Co-Chair  
21 Cupp, Co-Chair Sykes, and members of the Ohio  
22 Redistricting Commission, I am Reverend Brandi  
23 Slaughter. I serve as the policy director for the  
24 Ohio Council of Churches. In partnership with 17  
25 Christian denominations and 23 different

1 organizational configurations, we represent the  
2 largest and most diverse group of Christians in  
3 Ohio encompassing 4,000 congregation and nearly 2  
4 million members.

5 For over 100 years, the Council has  
6 regarded sacred texts as motivation for the push  
7 for fairness and justice, and I stand before you  
8 today as a partner in the fight to make sure that  
9 everyone is seen and heard, whether it be in the  
10 pews or in the community, in the census, at the  
11 polls, and throughout the redistricting process.

12 With over a decade of experience in and  
13 around Capitol Square, I have idea why I thought  
14 that this time it would be different. I travel to  
15 many of the hearings a few weeks ago, and as a  
16 matter of habit, I always count the number of  
17 people of color in these proceedings because, you  
18 see, as a woman of color, I take no joy in being  
19 the only or one of a few.

20 And as per usual, there was a sprinkling  
21 of us at these hearings. Now, perhaps it was  
22 because they were scheduled in the middle of the  
23 day with short notice, or perhaps it's because the  
24 majority of the state legislature doesn't  
25 intrinsically value black lives, nor our votes.

1           And I stand here today with bold  
2 prophetic witness because it's more than a  
3 feeling. It's evidence in the GOP-proposed maps.  
4 Without consideration for BIPOC communities, the  
5 GOP map is flawed from its inception and results  
6 in gerrymandered districts that ensure that the  
7 issues important to black people never see the  
8 light of day.

9           I thought that with the reforms of this  
10 process, at this time, we would get maps that  
11 recognize the human dignity of all people, whether  
12 they are black or brown, making sure that they can  
13 anticipate adequate political representation.

14           Instead, the GOP maps are more of the  
15 same, actually, worse. For the GOP leadership to  
16 have directed their map drawers to ignore  
17 something as fundamentally essential, never mind  
18 as constitutionally required, as ensuring that  
19 Ohio's communities of color get political  
20 representation they deserve, that's discouraging.

21           I cannot in good faith say that the  
22 redistricting plan meets constitutional muster,  
23 while also saying no thought was given to  
24 complying with the Voting Rights Act.

25           The U.S. Supreme Court holds that Section

1 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which says, "Voting  
2 procedures, including the creation of new  
3 legislative districts, cannot dilute minority  
4 voting rights," as that would be a violation of  
5 the Ohioans 14th Amendment right to equal  
6 protection.

7 Packing and cracking of minority voters  
8 into districts is specifically designed to dilute  
9 minority voting strength and has been struck down  
10 in federal courts time and time again.

11 The fact that the GOP map drawers  
12 admitted to not taking into account racial  
13 demographic data while drawing their map is  
14 extremely concerning and a violation of Article  
15 XI, Section 3(b)(2), which states that "any  
16 General Assembly map plan must comply with the  
17 U.S. Constitution, the Ohio Constitution, and  
18 federal law," i.e., the Voting Rights Act.

19 As a born-again believer, as an ordained  
20 elder in the Lord's church, having just celebrated  
21 11 years of ministry in the Pentecostal church of  
22 God and Christ, I am obligated to stand with moral  
23 authority and condemn maps, which will lock in  
24 another era, whether it's four years, whether it's  
25 10 years, of unfair and inequitable

1 representation.

2 My holy calling requires that I mirror  
3 the example of Jesus and that I stand in the gap  
4 to lift up the most vulnerable, the marginalized.  
5 And black and brown people across Ohio, let me be  
6 clear. The GOP maps fall short. How do you just  
7 ignore a whole segment of the population?

8 This Commission needs to go back to the  
9 drawing board. I welcome any questions you might  
10 have.

11 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Are there any questions?  
12 Hearing none, thank you.

13 REVEREND SLAUGHTER: Thank you.

14 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Brian Schmitz?

15 MR. SCHMITZ: Hello. My name is Brian  
16 Kennedy Schmitz, B-r-i-a-n, K-e-n-n-e-d-y, S-c-h-  
17 m-i-t-z.

18 What is gerrymandering, or as I like to  
19 call it, systemic cheating? It's a way of  
20 misrepresenting communities and citizens by  
21 manipulating unfair results. It's just plain  
22 cheating, and it's now aimed at removing veto.  
23 Its goal is monopoly.

24 Montgomery County is divided in the  
25 Commission's proposed maps by gross packing and

1 cracking for Seat 39, where I live. Cracking is  
2 defined as diluting the voting power of the  
3 opposing party's supporters across many districts,  
4 and packing is concentrating the opposing party's  
5 voting power in one district to reduce their  
6 voting power in other districts.

7 This is a nonpartisan testimony because I  
8 want communities of interest represented fairly  
9 and logically and not like House Seat 39 proposed  
10 to be done to my vote for my next representative.  
11 I want only citizen-drawn maps selected by the  
12 Commission, which adhere to the Ohio Constitution  
13 to reach solid political subdivisions,  
14 compactness, competitiveness, and above all,  
15 minority representation. Because I think we all  
16 know monopolization is not just unfair and un-  
17 American but very dangerous.

18 I pondered various ways to accomplish  
19 fair map drawings and drew multiple myself, taking  
20 one method to a county lottery to assign district  
21 numbers randomly, but I, as do others in Ohio,  
22 believe proximity to close neighbors is the best  
23 guideline for the most wholesome 99 House seats  
24 and 33 Senate seats.

25 I know lines have to fall somewhere.

1 Please choose the maps won in Fair District Ohio  
2 Drawing Competition by Pranav Padmanabhan to  
3 become the actual Commission selections for both  
4 House and Senate instead of those proposed by the  
5 Commission already.

6 Specifically, they apply to me and my  
7 neighbors being fairly valued and less as likely  
8 to be represented. House Seats 15, 14, and 18 of  
9 Mr. Padmanabhan's maps are fair for Dayton proper  
10 votes and surrounded Greater Dayton voter  
11 representation, which includes me.

12 In the two Commission-proposed maps,  
13 Montgomery County, where I live, is heavily  
14 gerrymandered by cracking it, diminishing  
15 metropolitan voter value of me and others near me  
16 by absorbing us into huge rural areas. I think  
17 the Dayton Metropolitan Seat line should limit  
18 absorption into distant surrounding areas to have  
19 a fair community-focused mapping and not a distant  
20 rural gerrymandering that diminishes many  
21 citizens' value.

22 Fair value mapping by equal political  
23 interest would make it more likely my  
24 representative focus on my needs, as they align  
25 with my neighbor's needs more than some far-off

1 combined county's citizens outweighing the will of  
2 my vote, my voice of issues, and that of many  
3 voters in the community.

4 We should mathematically value equal to  
5 another voter here or over there. Mr.  
6 Padmanabhan's maps were closely analyzed on  
7 metrics for fairness and best represent all the  
8 citizens of Ohio equally for election fairness and  
9 wholesome community representation, not a cheating  
10 toe under the scale of justice just for some.  
11 Thank you.

12 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. I do have a  
13 question. What House and Senate districts do you  
14 live in currently, the numbers?

15 MR. SCHMITZ: I'm in Harrison Township, I  
16 believe 6.

17 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Six for the Senate?

18 MR. SCHMITZ: Yes.

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Okay. Do you know your  
20 House number? If you don't, that's fine.

21 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Forty-three.

22 MR. SCHMITZ: Forty-three. Yeah.

23 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Forty-three. Okay.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Portion C is in the  
25 6th. The rest of Harrison is in the 5th.

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Right. Okay. Okay.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Under the current  
3 map.

4 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Very good. I  
5 was just looking at the area trying to figure  
6 about the area you're talking about. So I  
7 appreciate that. So any questions? Baring none,  
8 thank you very much.

9 Beth Sulliburger (phonetic)?

10 Paul Sazmanowski (phonetic)?

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Say that again,  
12 please?

13 CO-CHAIR CUPP: I will try. Paul  
14 Sazmanowski?

15 All right. Dennis Turner?

16 Patricia Walker?

17 Okay. Beth Sulliburger (phonetic)?

18 Renee Westrmeyr? Welcome.

19 MS. WESTRMEYR: Hello. My name is Renee  
20 Westrmeyr, R-e-n-e-e, W-e-s-t-r-m-e-y-r. My  
21 pronouns are she/her/hers. I currently live in  
22 Warren County, but I previously lived in the  
23 Senate district represented now by Mr. Antani.

24 Maps are a funny thing. The lines are  
25 totally arbitrary. They are created by humans and

1 used by those in power to claim their territory,  
2 divide land, and ultimately people. Throughout  
3 history, those with the most power over a city,  
4 state, or county are the map drawers.

5 That is until our nation declared its  
6 independence and created a democracy for the  
7 people, not kings, not presidents or governors,  
8 not just the wealthy, not just one race or  
9 ethnicity, not for red or blue, but the people.

10 In our democracy, we elect  
11 representatives as our voice, and they, in turn,  
12 are designated as map drawers. I must add that  
13 even though the founders of our democracy  
14 envisioned it as so, our representational  
15 government has not always been truly as such for  
16 all ethnicities, races, or genders.

17 But, thankfully, throughout our state and  
18 country's history, there have been great  
19 improvements to make it close to our  
20 Constitution's objectives of inclusion and  
21 fairness for all voters, that is until 2011 in  
22 Ohio.

23 Ohio is a purple state. I know looking  
24 at the historical breakdown of party in the state  
25 leadership, as well as the House and Senate, it is

1 hard to see that at times. But if you consider  
2 the federal election results, it's a much deeper  
3 picture.

4 We voted for a Senator from each major  
5 party and have voted for both parties in  
6 presidential elections. For several years  
7 preceding in 2011, there was a shift in the  
8 voters' wishes and the traditional hold the  
9 Republicans had on state leadership came to an  
10 end.

11 By 2009, Republicans had lost the  
12 Governor's seat and the House to the Democrats.  
13 The majority of voters in the state were not happy  
14 with their representation and voted them out.  
15 That is exactly how democracy is supposed to work.

16 Then in 2011, Republicans had regained  
17 control of the Governorship, House, and Senate.  
18 That was the voters' will at that time, and,  
19 again, that is how democracy works.

20 But that year happened to be a mapmaking  
21 year, and this time, those that held the majority  
22 decided to go rogue. They chose to use the  
23 redistricting as a tool to cement their power in  
24 future elections, instead of creating a map that  
25 represented Ohioans fairly.

1           They purposely took away the voice of  
2 thousands of voters by making it impossible to  
3 vote out representatives that no longer listened  
4 to them. The voters were not satisfied by this  
5 backroom power grab. Twice since then, we the  
6 people of Ohio have overwhelmingly voted to end  
7 gerrymandering and unfair districts.

8           But, yet, here we are again in 2021.  
9 Republicans on the Redistricting Commission seem  
10 to have ignored the voters' wishes for fair maps,  
11 as well as those drawn by scholars and other  
12 experts. Their maps increased the already skewed  
13 Republican supermajority in the House to 67  
14 percent, as well as maintain a 75 percent control  
15 in the Senate.

16           They, once again, have sliced much of  
17 Dayton and surrounding communities into rural  
18 areas to take away the voting voice, and my Senate  
19 District 7 still goes from the northern Warren  
20 County line with a sliver all the way down to the  
21 Ohio River that breaks apart communities near  
22 Cincinnati.

23           And you may think that the skewed House  
24 and Senate seats don't affect the statewide races,  
25 but they do. Traditionally, statewide seats --

1 the Secretary of State and Governor -- are won by  
2 people that have come up through the ranks of  
3 district elected positions.

4 Their name recognition and political  
5 connections gains them an advantage over other  
6 candidates that have been basically gerrymandering  
7 out of the system.

8 Ohio voters, the Commission's guidelines,  
9 and our Constitution demand a more  
10 representational, fair, and competitive breakdown  
11 of districts, a map that is closer reflected to  
12 the 54 percent Republican and 45 percent  
13 Democratic split of voters and one that is not so  
14 heavily skewed that it is impossible to vote out  
15 someone that is not doing the work the people  
16 want.

17 Maps like the Ohio Citizens'  
18 Redistricting Commission has proposed -- a group  
19 comprised of community leaders, scholars, and  
20 students -- their unity maps create a more equal  
21 playing field with a 55 Republican, 44 Democrat  
22 split in the House and an 18 Republican, 15  
23 Democrat split in the Senate.

24 In reducing a supermajority to a simple  
25 majority, it leads to more cooperation and

1 compromise between parties. That is really all  
2 the Ohio voters want, a state government that is  
3 accountable to all its citizens, not just one  
4 party. Thank you for your time.

5 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your time  
6 and being here --

7 MS. WESTRMEYR: And I do have a copy of  
8 the maps here that --

9 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Okay. Thank you.

10 We will go back to Matthew Baron-Chapman.  
11 Are you here now? Matthew, come on up.

12 MR. BARON-CHAPMAN: Hi. Excuse me for my  
13 -- well, I won't excuse the shirt, but the  
14 unappropriateness (sic) of my dress is -- I came  
15 from the airport. You guys didn't give us a lot  
16 of time to know when these hearings were  
17 happening.

18 I have a lot to say, but I think most of  
19 the people said it. A few things I did want to  
20 say is, to the Republicans on this committee,  
21 think about what you're doing, as far as: is  
22 gerrymandering really going to help you?

23 Look at the Senate candidates we have now  
24 because of severe partisan divide. Are those the  
25 people you really want to represent your party?

1 My state representative right now is  
2 Jennifer Gross. She's the one up there telling  
3 people that the vaccine is going to make you  
4 magnetic if you get it.

5 That's what happened when you have severe  
6 gerrymandering. You get people who don't  
7 represent small government, who don't represent  
8 GOP ideals. You get these -- I wish she was just  
9 a crazy person across the street, but she's the  
10 crazy person that's across the street -- she's  
11 crazy -- that is my state representative and is  
12 making decisions for the people in my district  
13 during a pandemic where people are dying. And she  
14 says the vaccine is making people magnetic.

15 Do the Republicans on this committee  
16 believe the vaccine is making us magnetic? That's  
17 the kind of representing you are getting when you  
18 skew things so terribly to one side.

19 The only other things that I wanted to  
20 say, you know, (indiscernible), I feel like you  
21 get up here, and you are trying to squirm out of  
22 some of your responsibility by saying like, well,  
23 it's really hard to make maps, and we have to  
24 split them somewhere.

25 The citizens have given you maps that

1 look great, that they say over and over we want.  
2 We want Geoff Wise's map. We want whoever else's  
3 map. That's the map. That's your entry. You  
4 guys are done. All you have got to do is vote on  
5 it and say this is the map we're going to take.

6 And think about it from a capitalist -- I  
7 mean, we're not a communist dictatorship. We're a  
8 capitalist democracy. What was exciting to me  
9 eight years ago to move to Ohio was that it was a  
10 purple state, and there was going to be robust  
11 conversation between Democrats and Republicans  
12 about what is best and the way to govern.

13 And what you're doing now is getting rid  
14 of all that competition, and you're allowing the  
15 crazies and the extremes from the parties to  
16 dictate what happens. And we don't want that. We  
17 just want something in the middle, something to  
18 talk about, you know.

19 And I think, Governor DeWine, I don't  
20 agree with you on a lot, but I do think you're a  
21 person who is trying to toe the line of, I want to  
22 be a responsible small government Republican.  
23 That's not what I believe in, necessarily, but I  
24 will give you that I think you're trying in good  
25 faith.

1           And so when you make this vote on this  
2 map, think about, are you pushing for the extremes  
3 of your party by pushing gerrymandering to a  
4 extent that anyone can get elected from the  
5 Republican Party just because they have an R next  
6 to their name, or are you going to vote in a way  
7 that says I'm looking for people who are looking  
8 to build consensus?

9           And I think that's the choice you have  
10 here. So please, there's a lot of other issues  
11 that I think people -- I agree with everything  
12 almost that's been said tonight, but please don't  
13 go some extreme. Give us a chance.

14           For all these little granular details,  
15 you have the maps. Choose one of those that the  
16 people have already made for you and take it.  
17 Hey, 55 to 45, I'm a Democrat. I'm a gay man  
18 married to a black man with a black child. Just  
19 the GOP scares me a little bit today. I will give  
20 you 55 percent, if you give me 45 percent. That's  
21 how much I want it to be a little bit closer. So  
22 please don't make it 70-30.

23           I have lived in states where your vote  
24 doesn't matter. I lived in Maryland. I lived in  
25 New York. I lived in Indiana. I lived in

1 Tennessee. Guess what? You go vote for a  
2 national election. I know my vote is not going to  
3 really matter. I still do it.

4 But Ohio is a purple state, and that's  
5 the one thing you can get people to move here  
6 because their voice actually matters. So show  
7 them that because your map right now says we don't  
8 want anyone who is Democratic leaning.

9 And you know who is Democratic leaning?  
10 Young people, young professionals, all the growing  
11 sectors in the census, black people, you know,  
12 people of color, gay people. All of these  
13 communities that are growing are the people you're  
14 leaving behind, and you're saying we don't want  
15 you here.

16 So please just make the map reasonable.  
17 You don't even have to do the homework. People  
18 did the homework for you. All you got to do is  
19 vote for it. Thank you so much for your time. I  
20 really appreciate it. It can't be easy to be  
21 yelled at a lot, but I really appreciate you even  
22 doing this.

23 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your  
24 willingness to come and testify.

25 MR. BARON-CHAPMAN: Sorry. And I live in

1 Westchester. I don't know if that matters,  
2 District 52, Matthew Baron. You probably don't  
3 want to know my name, but thank you.

4 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Next, we have Amber  
5 Weaver (phonetic).

6 Latricia Barker (phonetic)?

7 MS. BARKER: Members of the Commission,  
8 thank you for your time today. You have heard  
9 several people talk about the fairness of the  
10 maps. I lost my spot already. I would like to  
11 take a few minutes to discuss a specific situation  
12 I see in the maps.

13 I live in House District 24,  
14 Representative Russo, and Senate District 16,  
15 Senator Kunze, Democrat and Republican. For my  
16 communities of Hilliard and Norwich Township, I  
17 continue to wonder why we cannot get the entirety  
18 of Norwich Township under the same House  
19 representation as the rest of Hilliard.

20 Norwich Township provides the fire  
21 services for Hilliard. Hilliard provides the  
22 school districts for Norwich Township. We have  
23 similar constituent needs. The entirety of  
24 Hilliard is mapped in House District 11, which is  
25 great, but Norwich Township, the part of Norwich

1 Township that is not Hilliard, that is standalone  
2 Norwich Township, about 2600 people, are mapped in  
3 three different districts, 7, 10, and 11.

4 In the last maps, Norwich was split  
5 across three different districts. Two precincts  
6 of Norwich Township were each split into two  
7 different state House Representatives. So think  
8 about that. A district less than 1000 was in 2  
9 state houses, and these are precincts on our  
10 voting. A population of 76 was split between 23  
11 and 21. Norwich C population was split -- which  
12 is less than 1000 -- between 21 and 24.

13 These new maps bring most of Norwich A  
14 and C within the same representation as Hilliard  
15 but now moves all of Norwich D, population 682,  
16 and parts of Norwich A into a different district,  
17 District 10 and 7.

18 It also appears Norwich D is used to pull  
19 (indiscernible) 77 E and D into District 10 by  
20 using a sliver along the highway that I don't even  
21 think anybody lives in that runs along the 270  
22 Highway.

23 In looking at District 11 compared to  
24 many others, this does not seem to meet the  
25 requirements of compact, keeping right community

1 together. In the case of the split of parts of  
2 Norwich D and Norwich A, it does not conform to  
3 the rule D(3) of the law -- and I will state that  
4 -- "where the requirements of divisions (B), (C),  
5 and (D) of this section cannot feasibly be  
6 attained forming a representative district from  
7 municipal corporations and townships, not more  
8 than one municipal corporation or township may be  
9 split per representative district," as long as the  
10 ratio is applied, 2600 people.

11 This splits Norwich Township with a  
12 population of approximately 2600, in three  
13 different representative districts. The Democrats  
14 and the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission  
15 maps keep Hilliard and Norwich Township intact  
16 together, as well as keeping those businesses that  
17 support what we would call Hilliard that are part  
18 of Columbus with Hilliard.

19 This is just one community I see. I see  
20 others that have been split similarly. I spent  
21 only a couple of hours making these analysis. I  
22 would think the Commission has access to the best  
23 analytic tools and analysts, who can do these  
24 reviews across the state in very little time.

25 We ask you to do better. We ask for fair

1 and constitutionally-appropriate maps. And,  
2 finally, I will say Secretary of State LaRose, at  
3 the onset of the meeting, asked on the  
4 significance of September 11th, that we unite to  
5 work together. As a citizen of Ohio and a Desert  
6 Storm veteran, I agree. Thank you.

7 Any questions?

8 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you.

9 Are there any questions? Thank you very  
10 much.

11 Lynn Buffington?

12 MS. BUFFINGTON: Co-Chairs Cupp and Sykes  
13 and Commission members, thank you so much. Thank  
14 you for staying longer than you wanted to.

15 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Could you state  
16 and spell your name, please?

17 MS. BUFFINGTON: Oh. I'm sorry. Lynn,  
18 L-y-n-n, Buffington, B, as in boy, u-f, as in  
19 Frank, f, as in Frank, i-n-g-t-o-n. I did submit  
20 a witness slip yesterday.

21 So thank you for allowing me to speak. I  
22 live in Beaver creek in Greene County, 73rd House  
23 District, 10th Senate District.

24 I apologize my remarks will not be as  
25 polished because I'm trying to respond to your

1 request that we shorten them and not repeat what  
2 other people have said, but I did submit written  
3 testimony.

4 I am, like others, deeply disappointed in  
5 the Ohio assembly maps that five of the seven of  
6 you voted to support last Thursday, but I am also,  
7 as has been mentioned, very glad that the 2015  
8 redistricting reform process includes the chance  
9 for you to put forward new maps in the next few  
10 days. Regrettably, you only have three days.

11 So I urge you to adopt one of the maps  
12 that were the top winners in the nonpartisan  
13 contest, which has been mentioned by other  
14 speakers, that was held by the respected and  
15 nonpartisan Fair District Coalition. The winning  
16 maps do better, extraordinary better than yours at  
17 meeting the criteria that Ohioans overwhelmingly  
18 supported in the 2015 constitutional amendment to  
19 reform redistricting.

20 I think it would be unconscionable for  
21 the Commission to adopt poor draft maps, the ones  
22 that the five of you supported last week, when  
23 there are these readily-available maps that are so  
24 clearly superior.

25 I was going to talk at greater length

1 about the draft maps falling short in the area of  
2 proportionality that's in Section 6 and is also  
3 sometimes called representational fairness, but I  
4 believe that's been beaten to death today. You  
5 have heard a lot about that, and I agree with what  
6 has been said by the vast majority of speakers on  
7 that.

8 Besides the draft maps falling short in  
9 meeting the constitutional standard of  
10 proportionality, there are a couple of other  
11 concerns I have. One, at least one person  
12 mentioned, that Ohioans want a 10-year map, not a  
13 4-year map. As you know, if two Democrats do not  
14 support the map, the map will stand for only four  
15 years.

16 With the excellent nonpartisan maps that  
17 are available, that the public has submitted,  
18 there's absolutely no reason for you to settle on  
19 a four-year map. You are all elected officials,  
20 and we Ohioans expect you to compromise and do  
21 this right now, the first time.

22 A second consideration is Ohioans do want  
23 you to be good stewards of our taxpayer monies.  
24 If your current draft becomes the official maps,  
25 lawsuits are almost certainly going to follow.

1 Good stewards do not waste taxpayer money by  
2 making decisions that result in unnecessary legal  
3 fees.

4           Something I had not planned to mention,  
5 but since so many of the comments and questions  
6 earlier seem to question those speakers who wanted  
7 Trotwood to not be in a district with Preble  
8 County and wanted it to be with at least part of  
9 Dayton, I would mention these wonderful maps that  
10 resulted from this contest.

11           And if you look at this map, if my  
12 reading of it is correct, it has Trotwood with  
13 part of Dayton, and so these things can be done.  
14 Even though you may question the fact that there's  
15 a large number of people in Dayton and it has to  
16 be more than one district, well, as this  
17 successful map -- which goes higher than your map  
18 -- shows, you can have more than one district that  
19 include -- one of them includes part of Dayton,  
20 the other includes part of Dayton and Trotwood.

21           So I just urge you to look at these  
22 award-winning maps that citizens put so much money  
23 into.

24           So trying to speed along here, in  
25 summary, I urge you to fulfill the promise

1     afforded by the redistricting reform to give us  
2     maps that especially meet the constitutional  
3     criteria of proportionality, that are 10-year, not  
4     4-year maps, and don't waste taxpayer money on  
5     lawsuits.

6             One of our greatest Americans was  
7     Frederick Douglass, and he famously said, "Power  
8     concedes nothing without a demand." In 2015, the  
9     people of Ohio made a demand, first, by collecting  
10    signatures for an initiative and then at the  
11    ballot box. The people of Ohio demand fair  
12    districts. Thank you very much.

13            CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Are there any  
14    questions? Thank you.

15            Addison Caruso?

16            MR. CARUSO: Thank you all for giving me  
17    the chance to speak today. My name is Addison  
18    Caruso, and I live in Oakwood, Ohio.

19            CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Could you spell  
20    your name, please?

21            MR. CARUSO: Yes. It is A-d-d-i-s-o-n  
22    and then C-a-r-u-s-o. And I am just speaking out  
23    today against the maps the Commission has voted to  
24    move forward. They do not reflect the partisan  
25    layout of the state and are in violation of the

1 plain language of the Ohio Constitution.

2 As many people brought forward today, I  
3 would urge the Commission to adopt the maps  
4 proposed by the Ohio Redistricting Commission.  
5 Thank you very much, and also thank you to Jessie  
6 Balmert for live tweeting out this event for us  
7 all too.

8 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you. Any  
9 questions? Thank you.

10 MR. CARUSO: Thank you.

11 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Jim DiRossi  
12 (phonetic)? Jim DiRossi?

13 Vanessa Enoch?

14 Randy Fallison (phonetic)?

15 Vincent Hand?

16 Jeff Hardenbrook?

17 Stanley Hirtle?

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think that guy is  
19 Jeff.

20 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Oh, oh. Excuse  
21 me.

22 MR. HIRTLE: My name is Stanley Hirtle.  
23 I'm Chair of the Social Justice and Peacemaking  
24 Ministry Unit of College Hill Community  
25 Presbyterian Church.

1 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Can you spell  
2 your name, please?

3 MR. HIRTLE: H-i-r-t-l-e is my last name.  
4 And our church echoes the views of the lady who  
5 spoke a few minutes ago from the Columbus church.  
6 We believe in social justice. We expect justice  
7 from the powerful and care for the needy and  
8 vulnerable and value all persons.

9 We, therefore, object to these recent  
10 maps that were produced three days ago. Whether  
11 they're a hardball negotiating ploy or what we  
12 actually end up having a vote on, they are  
13 gerrymandered. The echo the structure of the  
14 present to maintain gerrymandering, and they have  
15 all kinds of shapes and discontinuities.

16 They have no purpose but to turn a small  
17 advantage in voters into a large advantage in  
18 legislative seats, and that's what they do.  
19 Fifty-three percent Republican advantage becomes  
20 sixty-eight or seventy percent of the seats and  
21 mostly uncompetitive districts, however you define  
22 them.

23 The Chair of the Hamilton County  
24 Republican Party recently stated that he saw  
25 gerrymandering essentially as the spoils of

1 victory, and the consequence of winning this last  
2 election is that you can now rig the system to  
3 make sure you win the next 10 years of elections,  
4 not because of how you govern and solve the  
5 people's problems, but because of how you draw the  
6 districts. He is not alone, and this is not  
7 democracy.

8           Looking at the new maps and, again, using  
9 the Dave's analytical tools, Montgomery County is  
10 basically the same as it was in 2010 with four of  
11 five House districts safely Republican. African  
12 American votes are diluted, particularly with  
13 Huber Heights and Trotwood sliced and put into  
14 other districts.

15           District 39, we know, has Preble and  
16 Warren Counties, the Republican community of  
17 Trenton, which has a little appendage down there  
18 just to get some more Republican votes, since it  
19 is right next to Middletown, which is -- more so  
20 there is better, more diverse. The jagged lines  
21 in the Englewood-Clayton area make both of those  
22 two districts safely Republican. So we have four  
23 of five districts in what is a very even county.

24           The Senate District 6 is two pieces held  
25 together with a little tiny bit of Kettering as a

1 string, so and, again, the city of Dayton and  
2 Trotwood has no likely chance of getting a  
3 Democrat, despite this.

4 The metropolitan areas are where the  
5 action is, even though the visuals may look the  
6 same, but if you look at metropolitan areas,  
7 Senate District 7 is essentially a handle on a  
8 frying pan of Warren County, and there are nearby  
9 Republican areas that are then shifted over to  
10 make Dayton.

11 District 8, it has a 17-point Republican  
12 advantage and surrounds District 9, which is 3-to-  
13 1 Democratic. So that is not a competitive  
14 district. If you look at Akron, Youngstown,  
15 Toledo, we see these heavy Democratic districts  
16 surrounded by districts created to be heavily  
17 Republican.

18 So this is, in fact, manipulating the  
19 districts in order to have more Republican votes  
20 than you would otherwise have, if things were  
21 right. That does not have to be the case. We  
22 know that the fair district movement has created  
23 maps, and these other maps, they are available.  
24 You can just adopt those maps, and they are fair.  
25 And you will win the support of the people.

1           The process here, again, the, you know,  
2 very close timing, if these maps are not the maps  
3 that you're going to vote on, we don't know what  
4 they are. We can't comment on them to you, and  
5 you're saying you're going to adopt those by  
6 Wednesday.

7           That is really not how a democratic  
8 process works. The people need to know what these  
9 are going to be and have these hearings about  
10 them. That could have happened. We know that  
11 COVID has done that. So I will stop but call on  
12 you to change your direction, open up the process,  
13 and ultimately draw districts that are fair,  
14 representative, competitive, unbiased, and  
15 respectful of the rights of minorities. Thank  
16 you.

17           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you.

18           Any questions?

19           Mr. Hardenbrook?

20           State and spell your name, please.

21           MR. HARDENBROOK: Yes. I have something  
22 written. Yes. My name is Jeff Hardenbrook, the  
23 last name, H-a-r-d-e-n-b-r-o-o-k. I live in  
24 Harrison Township in Montgomery County.

25           I don't want to repeat too much of what

1 everybody else has been saying today. I brought a  
2 book along. I think it's important to remember  
3 whose steps we follow in. David McCullough is a  
4 great historian.

5           The material I have handed out to you, by  
6 the way, is not with specifically the General  
7 Assembly redistricting. It's House districts  
8 because I feel it's indicative of what citizens  
9 can do.

10           Within a matter of hours and a calculator  
11 and the census data, I drew 15 districts that are  
12 compact, many of them are, i think, competitive,  
13 and I think they probably would reflect the will  
14 of the Ohio citizens better than the 12-4 split we  
15 had in the last redistricting from 2010 and '11.

16           But back to whose steps we follow in,  
17 David McCullough has written a number of  
18 histories, one on the Wright Brothers. Those of  
19 you that have local ties realize that the Wright  
20 Brothers, they weren't college educated.

21           They were curious, inquisitive folks.  
22 They were hardworking. They were brought up in a  
23 family of faith. Their father was a bishop in the  
24 Christian church. They really impacted the  
25 history of mankind, the history of this county,

1 the history of the state, and certainly the United  
2 States in a very positive way.

3 This particular book is about the  
4 settling of the Northwest Territory. It talks  
5 about, in particular, two people that I would like  
6 you to remember tonight, and to help you remember,  
7 I'm actually going to use a little bit of a prop  
8 here.

9 You have folks that show up at your House  
10 Committees with thinking they can stick things to  
11 their body, right, because of the vaccine, a  
12 little bit of the extremists and the crazies that  
13 are out there. We need a little levity, people.  
14 We need to remember, you know, soften the edges a  
15 little bit here.

16 So the two people I want you to remember,  
17 one was named Ephraim Cutler. His father was  
18 named Manasseh Cutler. Manasseh was an ornate  
19 minister, a Puritan from Massachusetts. Before  
20 Congress even voted on our Constitution, he went  
21 to New York during the sitting of Congress and  
22 encouraged them to enact the Northwest Ordinance  
23 in 1787.

24 He insisted that that ordinance include a  
25 no-slavery article, very significant, if you think

1 forward to the struggles we had in our country  
2 over slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, et  
3 cetera. We're still enduring those things today,  
4 but here was a man that put his time on the line,  
5 his money on the line, and gave us the possibility  
6 of being a non-slave state.

7 His son Ephraim was elected to the first  
8 Ohio Constitutional Convention, and each state at  
9 that point had a chance to decide whether they  
10 were going to go ahead with the Northwest  
11 Ordinance or decide to go slave. Ohio, believe it  
12 or not -- and I can't believe it even after  
13 reading the book, but it's well researched, well  
14 written -- Ohio's choice to be a non-slave state  
15 came down to one vote.

16 Ephraim Cutler cast that vote from his  
17 sickbed. He had people take him to the convention  
18 on his sickbed, and he voted no slavery. And that  
19 was put into our Constitution. It won because of  
20 one vote, people. So I'm saying soften up a  
21 little bit, you know. If anybody else needs  
22 props, I have got some more props here, you know.  
23 You have got extremists that you're going to have  
24 to deal with, right. Maybe they will even bring a  
25 pitchfork.

1           So I just want to say maybe, Governor  
2 DeWine, put those clodhoppers on and walk in your  
3 fields with the grandchildren, or maybe even go  
4 barefoot, even better. I find when I walk with my  
5 grandchildren, it kind of softens my heart. It  
6 opens up possibilities that maybe I think in my  
7 six-some decades have, you know, the avenues are  
8 shutting off.

9           Hope. Hope. Act for the citizens of  
10 Ohio. 2015, 2018, we gave you a mandate in the  
11 Constitution. These people made some tough  
12 decisions, and it sometimes came down to one  
13 individual. Please, do what's wrong. Do what you  
14 have been hearing people say at the meetings I  
15 have been to, and I'm sure you're hearing it all  
16 over the state. And thank you for your time.

17           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Are there any  
18 questions?

19           Thank you for your levity. We appreciate  
20 it.

21           Monica Houston?

22           Ellis Jacobs?

23           UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh. I'm sorry,  
24 which? What was the name?

25           MS. JACOBS: What was the first name?

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Ellis or Ellie Jacobs?

2 Ellis, Ellis Jacobs. No? Okay.

3 Kimberly Jacobs.

4 MS. JACOBS: Okay. There we go. Okay.

5 How is this? Good evening and thank you for

6 giving me the opportunity to speak. I know

7 everybody is tired and cold. And I really

8 appreciate the fact that you have all not only

9 stayed here, but you have been very attentive.

10 Much of our testimony has already been

11 covered by the numerous speakers that came before

12 me. So I am going to limit myself to three

13 points, and, again, as someone else had said, it's

14 not quite as smooth because I have been sitting in

15 the audience and crossing out and marking things

16 that are no longer relevant for me to say.

17 Quoting Senate President Huffman in a

18 recent article from the Cincinnati Enquirer, he

19 said, "If we follow the Constitution and follow

20 the laws of the state, then we will have a map

21 that is fair." And I think everybody can agree

22 with that, but complying with that requires a

23 clear understanding of what that actually means.

24 And doing that requires looking at the actual

25 words itself.

1           In particular, everybody's favorite from  
2 this evening, Article 6, Section 6(b), which I  
3 will not repeat. I wanted to focus on the word  
4 shall, as someone else recently had mentioned. In  
5 this context, it's not ambiguous. It is a very,  
6 very powerful word.

7           For example, in the Ten Commandments,  
8 when God says, "Thou shalt not kill," or, "Thou  
9 shall honor thy mother and father," it doesn't  
10 mean give it a shot. It means you comply, and the  
11 same with shall in the Ohio Constitution. It  
12 means you must. You have to. It's not optional  
13 or aspirational.

14           My second point is plenty of folks have  
15 testified about the numbers and percents in the  
16 proposed maps and the shortfalls in  
17 proportionality. So I will not cover that. I  
18 would ask you to keep in mind that each 1 percent  
19 represents over 100,000 Ohioans. So as the  
20 numbers and percents get tossed around, it's  
21 helpful to keep in mind that that's representing  
22 100,000 Ohioans.

23           My third point is to provide a bit of  
24 clarification about gerrymandering versus  
25 proportionality in this context. In reference to

1 the roughly 55-45 split as reported in the  
2 Columbus Dispatch, President Hoffman said,  
3 "Drawing a map with that split would amount to  
4 gerrymandering."

5 And I can see how that's kind of  
6 confusing. Gerrymandering is more the intent to  
7 design districts to favor a certain party, whereas  
8 proportionality in the context of Article 6 is  
9 used as a criterion of fairness and justice when  
10 interpreting constitutional law. It's used as a  
11 logical method to help achieve the correct  
12 balance.

13 I would urge the Council to propose new  
14 maps that are fair to all and resubmit for public  
15 review. The official proposed maps as is are not  
16 defensible when compared to the other submitted  
17 options, and, as many folks have stated, starting  
18 with one or more of those maps as a basis will  
19 save time, given that they meet all the required  
20 criteria and more accurately represent the voting  
21 history of the citizens of Ohio.

22 That's all I had, but I do have a  
23 question for you folks, if I may ask. What  
24 happens Wednesday? Your staff will be working on  
25 the maps. Will they get to the people in time to

1 be able to comment, or are you voting Wednesday.

2 I just want an understanding because I'm not that  
3 savvy when it comes to how things work.

4 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Go ahead.

5 CO-CHAIR CUPP: So the Ohio Constitution  
6 requires the Commission to adopt final maps by  
7 September 15th. So we are working in the meantime  
8 to see if we can resolve some of the issues that  
9 have been raised and get maps that would get us to  
10 a 10-year plan. But in any event, it would be my  
11 belief that we have to comply with the  
12 constitutional deadline of September 15th, which  
13 means we would have to vote on a plan and file  
14 that.

15 MS. JACOBS: Okay. So I guess it's a  
16 matter of adhering to the Constitution either by  
17 voting on a map on the 15th or adhering or  
18 possibly adhering to the components that are  
19 specific in the Constitution for the map to --  
20 that the map must comply with.

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Right. The map must  
22 comply with the components, and it must be adopted  
23 by September 15th.

24 MS. JACOBS: Okay. When do you think  
25 those maps will be available to the public for

1 review?

2 CO-CHAIR CUPP: We are working and our  
3 staffs are working on those to try to resolve some  
4 of the issues that have been presented here and  
5 to, you know, reach a 10-year map, but that's a  
6 difficult process. This has been made  
7 extraordinarily difficult, in spite of what some  
8 people have said, by the fact that the census data  
9 is not available.

10 MS. JACOBS: Well, there are some  
11 citizen-provided maps that would be a good  
12 starting point, but my question is, will there be  
13 three more hearings on the revision of the map --  
14 in essence, it's a new map?

15 CO-CHAIR CUPP: There's no requirement,  
16 no constitutional requirement for that.

17 MS. JACOBS: For review of the maps  
18 before voting?

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Well, I'm assuming they  
20 will be made available, you know, prior to voting,  
21 but I don't think we have resolved that procedure  
22 yet. But there's no constitutional requirement  
23 for additional public hearings.

24 MS. JACOBS: Okay. Thank you very much.

25 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: One of the

1 additional challenges to this body -- and to the  
2 legislature in general -- is the charge to be  
3 transparent. That is one of the difficult things  
4 that we have not conquered yet, and we are still  
5 struggling to do.

6 It is my opinion that we should provide  
7 more information as we go in this process, and we  
8 will do what we can to do that.

9 MS. JACOBS: Thank you. My last question  
10 was going to be: will you be providing a narrative  
11 as to how the decisions were made?

12 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: That information  
13 will be shared with you for sure.

14 MS. JACOBS: Okay. Thank you very much.

15 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Charles Jacobs.

16 MR. JACOBS: Good afternoon. Well, that  
17 was written a while ago. Good evening. My name  
18 is Charles Jacobs. I live in the East Walnut  
19 Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati. I believe my  
20 House District is 27, and my Senate District is 7.

21 I had material here about the analysis  
22 that was performed on the proposed maps, as well  
23 as those submitted by the Fair Districts Ohio  
24 Competition. I'm not going to go through those  
25 numbers, only to point out, again, that in the

1 same amount of time, using the same data with,  
2 presumably, much fewer resources, the people that  
3 submitted the winning bids for the Fair Districts  
4 Ohio Competition were able to beat significantly  
5 the submitted maps on the measures of compactness  
6 and proportionality, had a moderate improvement of  
7 minority representation, and at least matched them  
8 in all the other dimensions.

9 So people with less resources, same  
10 amount of time were able to do something which  
11 meets both the letter and the spirit of the law  
12 much better.

13 What I want to jump into is why I think  
14 it's so important to consider fairness in setting  
15 the new districts and why it is in the self-  
16 interest of the Republican Party to develop maps  
17 that are fair for their own reasons.

18 First off, I want to point out the  
19 manipulation of district boundaries to achieve  
20 partisan political objectives undermines the  
21 structure of, and, therefore, ultimately, the  
22 confidence in the election process and, in turn,  
23 democracy itself.

24 And the members of an opposing party may  
25 coil their influence in the short run, but it

1 engenders distrust and animosity that ultimately  
2 weakens the ability of elected officials to work  
3 together.

4 Rather than two parties with different  
5 points of view working jointly to solve the  
6 significant issues that affect everyone, it splits  
7 the state into competing factions, where success  
8 for one party means beating the other.

9 Ultimately, everybody loses.

10 Gerrymandering also weakens the party in  
11 power. It undermines the party's legitimacy by  
12 making a contrived majority win, the political and  
13 moral equivalent of a participation trophy.

14 In addition, it erodes the party from  
15 within. With gerrymandering, district definitions  
16 ensure the winner is from a particular party.  
17 Competition shifts to the primary process, where  
18 success is no longer based on what the broader  
19 constituent base wants but rather what helps that  
20 candidate stand out within their own party.

21 This tends to favor extreme points of  
22 view, driving the collective set of elective  
23 representatives farther and farther from the  
24 middle and splitting the country into ever-more  
25 factious camps, eroding the democratic process,

1 and the people suffer.

2 It is easy to think that American  
3 democracy has been around forever and that it will  
4 somehow always survive, but let me add a little  
5 couple things for perspective. I'm 61 years old.  
6 Originally, I said I'm only 61. My grandson said  
7 I couldn't say that anymore. So I'm 61 years old,  
8 and that means I have been alive for approximately  
9 one-quarter of the time that America has existed.

10 America isn't that old. It is still a  
11 relatively young experiment in representative  
12 government. It's a model for the world, emulated  
13 by our allies and intimidating to our enemies.  
14 Despite recent partisanship, the mechanisms of its  
15 design have served it well over the years. Let's  
16 not undermine it any further.

17 If people, all people, don't feel that  
18 their voice is heard through the voting process,  
19 democracy as we know it will not survive in  
20 America. Thank you for giving me the opportunity  
21 to present today. Any questions?

22 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Any questions?

23 Thank you very much.

24 Ellie Lauber (phonetic)?

25 Ron Lito -- Ron Little?

1 William Martin?

2 MR. MARTIN: Good evening. Thank you for  
3 the opportunity to say a few words this evening.  
4 My name is William Martin, William as in William  
5 and Martin is M-a-r-t-i-n.

6 Before I begin this evening, I would like  
7 to say, Governor, I salute you for what you did in  
8 the epidemic, in the pandemic. I think you did  
9 your best. You tried hard, and we appreciate  
10 that. Of course, how many politicians can say I  
11 saved lives as a result of what I did? Keep it  
12 up.

13 In my lifetime, voting districts have  
14 always been gerrymandered. That's just been the  
15 way it is. Both parties joyfully gerrymander when  
16 they get the opportunity. Now, we have a  
17 constitutional amendment to fix it.

18 These days, the Republicans are in  
19 charge, and I do not believe for a moment they  
20 will change their ways. Indeed, if the public  
21 media are correct, the current Republican draft  
22 plan for redistricting is still skewed to the  
23 right.

24 So my request is simple. Un-skew the  
25 redistricting map. I do not expect the Democrats

1 and the Independents to come out winners. They're  
2 in the minority in Ohio at the moment. I do  
3 expect them, however, to have a fair chance to  
4 elect legislators.

5 You will be under considerable pressure  
6 to compromise and cut deals, so that, for example,  
7 a favored Democrat will save his or her seat at  
8 the expense of several other seats saved to the  
9 Republicans. Kindly decline the deal. Just play  
10 the game straight and un-skew the map.

11 You know, we citizens who try to pay a  
12 little attention to what goes on in Columbus are  
13 (indiscernible). It's like Charlie Brown and the  
14 football. The latest development uncovered a  
15 massive bribery scandal to reverse Ohio's progress  
16 on green energy to fight climate change.

17 Just once do it the way it is supposed to  
18 be done. Don't skew it up. Thank you. Any  
19 questions?

20 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Do we have any questions?  
21 Any more questions?

22 We also have an Agnes Martin.

23 MR. MARTIN: That would be my wife.

24 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Agnes, it's  
25 your turn to address us.

1 MS. MARTIN: Good evening. My name is  
2 Agnes Martin. That's A-g-n-e-s, Martin, M-a-r-t-  
3 i-n. I agree with much of what's been said today.  
4 So I will skip some of my opening.

5 Gerrymandering has blighted this state's  
6 politics for many years, under both Democrats and  
7 Republican administrations. Mostly recently and  
8 for a longer period of time, it has been the  
9 Republican -- did you hear the beginning or should  
10 -- okay. Most recently and for a longer time, it  
11 has been the Republican Party's modus operandi.

12 The result has been that Republicans  
13 running for statewide or national office had to  
14 skew farther and farther to radical positions in  
15 order to be nominated. More moderate -- or some  
16 might say reasonable -- candidates could not  
17 satisfy the so-called base of the Republican  
18 Party.

19 The skew to radicalism has been filtering  
20 down to local Republicans lately, where moderate  
21 Republicans are called RINOs or worse. In my  
22 community, some Republicans have been drummed out  
23 of the party, actually.

24 It is time for Republicans to renounce  
25 this radicalism, which has distorted the Grand Old

1 Party. Show us Ohioans that you still have  
2 personal consciences and believe in the rule of  
3 law. Follow the law and the Ohio Constitution and  
4 adopt the redistricting plan proposed by the Ohio  
5 Citizens' Redistricting Commission. Thank you for  
6 your attention.

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your  
8 willingness to testify.

9 Next witness is Lucy McKosky.

10 MS. MCKOSKY: Good evening and thank you  
11 for this opportunity to speak. My name is Lucy  
12 Anne McKosky, and I'm a resident of Washington  
13 Township, Montgomery County. If you need me to  
14 spell my name, it's L-u --

15 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes, please.

16 MS. MCKOSKY: Pardon me?

17 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes, please.

18 MS. MCKOSKY: L-u-c-y, A-n-n-e, M-c-k-o-  
19 s-k-y. This is a little like when I go to donate  
20 blood. Did you need my date of birth, as well?

21 CO-CHAIR CUPP: No, ma'am.

22 MS. MCKOSKY: Okay. I'm not going to  
23 repeat all of the things that the other witnesses  
24 have said, although that's pretty much what I had  
25 written down.

1           But to summarize, I think what you have  
2 heard today is 99 percent of the witnesses saying  
3 the map you adopted on Thursday is not acceptable.  
4 It does not meet the criteria that the people  
5 voted for in 2015, and the people know this.

6           So it's up to you. You have three days.  
7 You have good material to work with, those maps  
8 that the citizens have produced, the maps that the  
9 Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission produced.  
10 All meet the criteria of the Constitution better  
11 than the one that you produced. You have got  
12 three days.

13           At the beginning of the hearing,  
14 Secretary LaRose said that he had hoped you would  
15 come to consensus. My hope is that you will come  
16 to consensus first around supporting the basic  
17 principles of democracy.

18           People's votes should count.  
19 Representatives should be accountable to their  
20 constituents. This means fair and competitive  
21 districts. This means districts composed of  
22 similar populations, whose interests can be  
23 effectively represented.

24           So the choice is yours. Stand up for  
25 democracy or watch it die. Thank you.

1 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

2 Elaine Moscovitz?

3 MS. MOSCOVITZ: Let's just say now good  
4 evening, Commission members, Governor -- he's not  
5 here -- Co-Chair, and thank you for having this  
6 meeting on a day and at a time when most folks who  
7 work can attend it.

8 My name is Elaine Moscovitz. That's M-o-  
9 s-c-o-v-i-t-z. And I live in the 33rd House  
10 District and the 8th Senatorial District just  
11 outside of Cincinnati. I'm not going to complain  
12 about my representatives not having the same  
13 issues and values that I have.

14 In the Cincinnati meeting, many folks in  
15 the eastern part of Cincinnati, just 10 minutes  
16 from where I live, did have that issue. The 33rd  
17 is a safe Democratic district, and I feel I am  
18 always represented by my House Rep. and by my  
19 State Senator.

20 However, I am not represented in the Ohio  
21 State Assembly, since unlike the statewide mix of  
22 54 percent Republicans and 46 Percent Democrats,  
23 the Republicans have a supermajority in the  
24 Statehouse.

25 Therefore, this not only inhibits my

1 representatives from being able to give me the  
2 voice in state government and the bills sponsored  
3 at the Statehouse, the representatives in packed  
4 districts, which the 33rd is, don't necessarily  
5 have to make an effort to communicate with their  
6 constituents.

7 Now, I'm not saying this in my case, in  
8 my district, but this is the outcome, as other  
9 people have said, in any district that is packed  
10 to achieve a dilution of the state representation  
11 in Ohio politics. The outcome is cynicism of a  
12 voting public, particularly young people first  
13 engaging in civics.

14 They take a tour of that beautiful  
15 stately capital in Columbus. Their jaw drops at  
16 the grandeur. Then they return home, saying it's  
17 all a show and a sham. I'm not represented there.  
18 My representative doesn't get listened to.

19 You may say that's the cynicism of youth,  
20 but they know the truth. What we, the people,  
21 voted for twice was a bipartisan commission to  
22 work on redistricting that shall correspond  
23 closely with the statewide preference. This is  
24 along with the standard that the districts shall  
25 be compact geophysically.

1           Many people have turned in maps to meet  
2 these conditions, and I agree -- just look at  
3 those maps as a starting, and you will save a lot  
4 of time. I shall repeat what Secretary LaRose  
5 said on the 9th, "The outcome is more important  
6 than the schedule."

7           The outcome are the districts that  
8 reflect 54 percent Republicans and 46 percent  
9 Democratic preference of the voters. That means,  
10 besides avoiding dividing up communities so their  
11 votes never elect a representative of their  
12 choice, it also means not packing all the  
13 Democrats into one, two, or five districts so that  
14 the Republicans have a supermajority at the State  
15 Assembly.

16           That's what we will be watching. Thank  
17 you.

18           CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. Colin  
19 Flanagan?

20           MR. FLANAGAN: My name is Colin Flanagan.  
21 That's C-o-l-i-n, F-l-a-n-a-g-a-n. I live in  
22 Oregon, Ohio, which is a suburb of Toledo. And  
23 yes. I really drove two and a half hours to get  
24 here today, sat through four hours of a meeting,  
25 and now I'm going to get back after midnight. But

1 I care that much about these fair maps that I  
2 still want to talk to you, even though the  
3 Governor doesn't want to hear me.

4 So last Wednesday, I watched as the  
5 Commission voted yes -- or maybe it was Thursday  
6 -- to proceed with the Senate Republicans House  
7 map, and I, like a lot of Toledoans, looked at the  
8 map. And I said, "What on God's green earth is  
9 this?"

10 Working from west to east on your map,  
11 you drew Sylvania, a suburban population of nearly  
12 50,000 people, in with western Lucas County and  
13 then you went south into Wood and even further  
14 into Hancock County. As the only other northwest  
15 Ohioan in the room, Speaker Cupp knows that those  
16 are not a community of interest.

17 It's also not compact. Springfield and  
18 Highland are drawn in with Maumee to the southeast  
19 and then South Toledo, then it makes a jump across  
20 the Maumee River for a mere five precincts in East  
21 Toledo, then Oregon, Jerusalem. And then you jump  
22 back across the mouth of the Maumee River and into  
23 Point Place, and then it runs along the Toledo-  
24 Michigan border for its entire length. Now,  
25 inside, there are two more ridiculous districts

1 that I'm not going to even get into.

2 No matter how you slice up Lucas County,  
3 according to the county spitting and city  
4 splitting rules, you essentially have to come up  
5 with three Democratic districts and one Republican  
6 district. That's not even speaking from the  
7 standpoint of fairness. That's the geographic  
8 reality, and it's also not a challenge.

9 My proposal, you should draw one fair  
10 district that leans Republican by about five  
11 points in the western part of the county. Draw in  
12 Sylvania, Springfield, Waterville, Whitehouse, and  
13 Monclova. It would border Maumee, Toledo, and  
14 Ottawa Hills, and it's even closer to the ideal  
15 population than the noncompact, three county  
16 district you have proposed.

17 In Toledo, you could work your way in the  
18 western half north of Maumee and follow the Ottawa  
19 River and Anthony Wayne Trail. Those are two  
20 simple borders until you hit the I-475 loop to the  
21 north and the Maumee River to the south. And  
22 guess what? That's a minority opportunity  
23 district that's only 44 percent white.

24 It keeps just South Toledo, downtown, and  
25 the North End together. District 42, at that

1 point, practically draws itself. It's all just  
2 north of District 41 up to the Michigan line. It  
3 combines Ottawa Hills, West Toledo, Point Place,  
4 and the old Washington Township area and Whitmore  
5 High School.

6 The last district that leaves you with  
7 has to leave Lucas County because there aren't  
8 enough people to finish it off. Rather than  
9 diluting the votes as suburbanites by joining them  
10 in with the folks of North Baltimore and Fostoria,  
11 you should draw Perrysburg, Northwood, and  
12 Rossford in with Oregon and Maumee.

13 That would leave Wood County for its own  
14 district, with the people of Bowling Green finally  
15 getting a say in their state. Because it isn't  
16 just suburban voices you hurt when you  
17 gerrymander. It's the rural voices as well.

18 And yes. In my first testimony in  
19 Toledo, I advocated for these same boundaries  
20 because the districts are all communities of  
21 interest. That's the goal of creating districts,  
22 after all, but the Republican members of the  
23 Commission have chosen to silence voters in the  
24 name of political gain with their proposed map.

25 Because you have taken it to a political

1 level, I'm happy to do so as well. The map in  
2 front of you today that you have proposed is a  
3 disgrace to Ohio, and it pains me to know that  
4 Michigan, of all places, is going to have fairer,  
5 better maps than we are, and they have done it  
6 with a much more transparent process.

7           The ballot initiatives of the past decade  
8 demand compactness and fair statewide  
9 representation. You know that. You have heard 50  
10 other people say it tonight. I hope you will give  
11 it to them. In fact, the only way that I believe  
12 we will get a fair map in this state is if it's  
13 court drawn.

14           Not one of the five Republican members of  
15 this commission has shown that they're men of  
16 principle in these map ordeals. From the Senate  
17 President, his design of the maps in the last go-  
18 round in 2011, from the Speaker bringing bills to  
19 the floor in the name of pleasing extremists in  
20 the chamber like Jena Powell, from the Secretary  
21 of State, who declared last year that we had the  
22 most secure, safe, and successful election in  
23 Ohio's history in 2020 and then applauded the  
24 General Assembly for their attempts to rewrite the  
25 way that we do things.

1           And the Governor, who didn't attend a  
2     single regional hearing, who read the newspaper  
3     during the last hearing on his iPad, who promised  
4     to bring change in the wake of a mass shooting in  
5     Dayton, and who continues to give in to the  
6     pressure of provirus and extremists in Ohio and  
7     across the country because he's more loyal to his  
8     party, who just a couple days ago, declined at  
9     their Convention meeting to endorse him for  
10    Governor next year.

11           To that Governor, who is no longer here,  
12    with promises full of empty words, I hope he can  
13    find the courage to do what's right for Ohio on  
14    these maps because his party won't have his back,  
15    even if he has theirs.

16           And, like I said, I truly believe that  
17    the only way this state will have fair maps in  
18    2022 is if the judicial system draws them, and I  
19    ask you sincerely to prove me wrong. Thank you.  
20    And I will take any questions.

21           CO-CHAIR CUPP: Any questions?

22           Senator Sykes.

23           CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Do you have any  
24    experience drawing maps at all?

25           MR. FLANAGAN: I mean, I'm a novice, but

1 I have done this basically for the past year and a  
2 half in anticipation of these meetings. And it's  
3 why I sat here for four hours. In fact, if you  
4 wanted me to draw an entire state map, I would do  
5 it. I would do it before Wednesday.

6 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: Thank you.

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

8 MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Kim Senft-Paris? I will  
10 ask you to pronounce your name and spell it, as  
11 well.

12 MS. SENFT-PARAS: That usually happens.  
13 My name is Kim, K-i-m, Senft, S-e-n-f-t, hyphen,  
14 Paras, P-a-r-a-s.

15 Thank you for the opportunity. I thank  
16 you for the opportunity for me to speak to you  
17 today. I vote in Ohio's 41st House District,  
18 Ohio's 6th Senate District, and the 10th U.S.  
19 Congressional District here in Centerville.

20 As Jo Lovelace Hill said, we have begun  
21 to become repetitive in our testimony, and I do  
22 respect the wishes of the Commission that we  
23 abridge what we have to say. But I do hope that  
24 you all are hearing the heart and soul that people  
25 are putting into this testimony, the time, you

1 know.

2 I have been here since about quarter  
3 until 4:00. Golly, it's almost 8:30, and like the  
4 gentleman before me, I just had to drive down the  
5 street. But a lot of people have spent a lot of  
6 time and effort to be here, and I know it isn't  
7 just here but in the other places that you're  
8 going. So I hope that you really appreciate what  
9 we're doing.

10 To bring a little levity to this  
11 proceedings, I'm going to paraphrase pop singer  
12 Britney Spears, "Oops, you did it again." Your  
13 mapmakers proposed maps that continue to create  
14 safe districts, which result in predictable  
15 election outcomes, resulting in unresponsive  
16 elected officials, disengaged voters, and  
17 dysfunctional government, which serves only those  
18 that make the maps.

19 I had intentioned, like others, to go  
20 through all the information about proportionality.  
21 I will not do that, but I will tell you that I was  
22 part of the team with the League of Women Voters  
23 that went around to communities in Montgomery  
24 County to hear people's stories about where they  
25 live.

1           And I, honestly, have to say it was one  
2 of the most remarkable experiences I have ever  
3 had. Place is very important to me, and to hear  
4 people talk about where they live, why they love  
5 it, why they love their neighbors, and what their  
6 values, culture, and concerns are and how they  
7 share that with their neighbors was quite moving.

8           And the other gentleman referenced a  
9 book. I'm a retired library director. I will  
10 reference The Yellow House by Sarah Broom, and it  
11 is all about a house that gets swept away in  
12 Katrina. And it's a house that she grew up in,  
13 and it really will make you very closely examine  
14 place and how important it is to so many people.

15           I also want to really champion the  
16 testimony of Valerie Lee, who spoke very  
17 eloquently about Trotwood and gave you a perfect  
18 metaphor for what could happen, if Michigan got  
19 dropped into Ohio State. Like Reverend Slaughter,  
20 I too had high hopes for this process, and this  
21 can still be turned around.

22           I loved Ariel Miller's testimony. We  
23 both share the same idea that fair maps are  
24 possible, as shown by the map submitted to the  
25 Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission and Fair

1 Districts. This is very good news. We don't have  
2 to have this deadline, you know, be a hatchet over  
3 our heads.

4 We are so fortunate to have the resources  
5 through both technology and actual people,  
6 Ohioans, who had the imagination, intelligence,  
7 and tenancy to work together with you to create  
8 fair districts and make elections serve all  
9 Ohioans.

10 We can be leaders, and you can put Ohio  
11 on the map by showing the rest of the country how  
12 it is done with integrity, strength, and  
13 transparency. So let's do this right, and I  
14 really do appreciate you staying this late to hear  
15 all of us. Thank you.

16 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

17 Joy Schwab?

18 MS. SCHWAB: Okay. Thank you all for  
19 staying. I know you must be as tired as I am, and  
20 I will try to keep this short and to the point.

21 I agree with what everyone has said thus  
22 far, you know. There's been excellent testimony.  
23 I just wanted to say that -- oh. And my name is  
24 Joy, J-o-y, Schwab, S-c-h-w-a-b, and I'm from  
25 Beaver creek, Ohio.

1           And I learned in my 1966 civics class in  
2 high school that gerrymandering was wrong. We all  
3 know gerrymandering is wrong. If you didn't  
4 realize before today, since the map you have  
5 proposed is gerrymandered and unacceptable, I  
6 think you should realize from the testimony  
7 overwhelming today that it is.

8           You need to think hard about the  
9 polarization and the political extremism that  
10 gerrymandering creates, you know. It's put Ohio,  
11 the General Assembly, out of sync with the voters  
12 of Ohio.

13           The voters of Ohio do not believe that,  
14 you know, women should lose the right to an  
15 abortion after six weeks when most of them don't  
16 know they're pregnant. The majority of Ohio  
17 voters, you know, believe that there needs to be,  
18 you know, you know, good controls on guns and, you  
19 know, the ability to have background checks.

20           The majority of Ohio voters, you know,  
21 want to have, you know, the pandemic that we're in  
22 taken seriously and, you know, not ignored by, you  
23 know, nutcases, basically. So and the effects of  
24 gerrymandering and all of this also just doesn't  
25 effect Democrats and Independents, but it also is

1 affecting sensible, responsible Republicans such  
2 as yourselves, I'm assuming.

3 And it puts you in danger of being  
4 primaried by some of these, you know, crazy people  
5 that were talked about before with, you know, oh,  
6 you know, the vaccine makes you magnetic. You  
7 have to admit you have some people like that in  
8 your General Assembly, and this does not serve any  
9 of us well.

10 So please adopt one of the maps that has  
11 been suggested to you today that has, you know,  
12 been in so many ways better than the one that you  
13 have proposed, you know.

14 I am 73. I am getting really tired of  
15 always fighting about these things and the  
16 constant fights. I don't know how much more time  
17 I have left, period, and I don't want to spend my  
18 last days fighting for something as common sense  
19 and, you know, practical as having fair districts.

20 I'm also very frightened these days of  
21 the current extremism that condones lies and  
22 violence in the pursuit of political dominance in  
23 this country, and so please, please, I implore  
24 you, do the right thing. Thanks. Okay.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

1 Connie Sheets?

2 MS. SHEETS: Thank you for the  
3 opportunity to say a few words today. You can see  
4 I have been trying to keep it updated to not  
5 repeat too much. So I will see if I can follow my  
6 notes.

7 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you. That is much  
8 appreciated, and you will still have an important  
9 impact, so.

10 MS. SHEETS: My name is Connie Sheets, C-  
11 o-n-n-i-e, S-h-e-e-t-s, and I live in the Oakley  
12 neighborhood of Cincinnati. I was going to start  
13 off with: why are we here today? That's a  
14 question I want to address. I'm going to change  
15 that to: why are we still here after 8:300 p.m.,  
16 or maybe it's closer to 9 o'clock?

17 And I'm going to say what I have observed  
18 is that we are still here because this Commission  
19 has not shown a good faith effort to seriously put  
20 together fair maps. There's been ample testimony  
21 about the community-generated maps by Geoff Wise,  
22 who, actually, I happen to know from working with  
23 him at P&G, and the other gentleman -- I don't  
24 know his name -- but private citizens put together  
25 better maps than you did.

1           So either you guys don't want to put  
2 together good maps, or you're incompetent. But  
3 anyway we're here -- the people that are still  
4 here -- we are here because we want you to do your  
5 job and put a serious fair effort to put together  
6 fair districts. Please, please, please, please,  
7 we voted several years ago to end gerrymandering.  
8 Please do it and just do it now.

9           I mean, it's silly that we're spending so  
10 many hours and hours and hours and hours, and you  
11 guys are saying, oh, we didn't know what the map  
12 was going to be. I think I read that quote from  
13 Chairman Cupp, "I didn't know what was going to  
14 come out of the maps." That's just really fairly  
15 --

16           CO-CHAIR CUPP: That was not exactly what  
17 I said, but that is okay. Go ahead.

18           MS. SHEETS: To paraphrase. But that's  
19 just disingenuous. I mean, those maps that were  
20 released on Thursday were an absolute joke and a  
21 punch in the face of all Ohioans, who voted  
22 overwhelmingly to stop the practice of  
23 gerrymandering.

24           It's disingenuous, to say the least, and  
25 in my opinion, you are just using your position to

1 become corrupt powermongers. And it's just  
2 despicable.

3 As a former lifelong Republican -- so I  
4 think I have a little different perspective than a  
5 lot of the other people that talked -- I have been  
6 a lifelong Republican until now, and I'm  
7 absolutely appalled at your behavior of the  
8 elected Republican officials in Ohio and across  
9 the country.

10 You are behaving deceptively,  
11 disingenuously, corruptly, hypocritically, totally  
12 unacceptable for a duly elected public official.  
13 As a public elected official, you took an oath to  
14 uphold our State Constitution, and I'm looking at  
15 the Republicans that are still here.

16 That oath includes a code of ethics for  
17 public officials, ethics, ethics, ethics. In my  
18 opinion, the five members, five Republican  
19 members, who voted to accept these garbage maps  
20 show a true contempt for us Ohioans.

21 Governor DeWine, who's not here any  
22 longer, and Frank LaRose, I actually, truly, I  
23 really expected much better of both of you. The  
24 other gentlemen, I don't know. So I had no  
25 opinion.

1 I mean, I am retired now from Proctor &  
2 Gamble, and I have made it -- my retirement  
3 priority is to work against GOP party corruption.  
4 I will be honest with you. I did not have  
5 political activist on my retirement bingo card,  
6 but here I am.

7 Imagine that I'm a former lifelong  
8 Republican, and I'm embarrassed to admit my  
9 association with that party, as it is clear that  
10 it's a party solely intended to usurp power by any  
11 means, regardless of the democratic principles or  
12 ethics.

13 I look into your eyes, Mr. Faber,  
14 Mr. Antoni, Mr. Cupp, Mr. LaRose. You need to  
15 uphold your duty for public service, rather than  
16 the corruption of the election process. Right  
17 now, we're in a state that is ruled by a political  
18 party, who is intent on grabbing power, not a  
19 party that is interested in bringing the whole  
20 state up and improving it to become a better  
21 state.

22 As some previous people have said more  
23 eloquently than me, we could be attracting people  
24 to move to Ohio and maybe get a seat back. Why  
25 did Ohio lose a seat? Because people don't want

1 to come here because it's not an attractive place  
2 to live anymore.

3 So what would I typically be doing on a  
4 bright, beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon when I  
5 got here? Instead of being in a meeting room in  
6 Miamisburg, I would have been doing sailboat  
7 racing on Cowan Lake. And I was going to say to  
8 Governor DeWine -- I know he's a fisherman -- I'm  
9 sure he would rather be fishing on Cowan Lake than  
10 sitting here in a meeting.

11 But you know what? This is important,  
12 and as a private citizen, it's important to show  
13 up. And it's important to pay attention.

14 So in conclusion, we need to stop  
15 gerrymandering in Ohio right now. Just do it now.  
16 There are plenty of resources available. You  
17 don't have to recreate the wheel. Geoff Wise has  
18 a map. The other gentleman has a map. Use  
19 resources that are already out there and  
20 available. You don't have to start from scratch.  
21 Thank you.

22 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your  
23 testimony.

24 Next witness is Clare Sundar (phonetic).  
25 Clare Sundar?

1           Next is Jocelyn Rhynard, if I pronounced  
2 that correctly.

3           MS. RHYNARD: Co-Chair Sykes, Co-Chair  
4 Cupp, members of the Commission, thank you for  
5 having me tonight. My name is Jocelyn Rhynard. I  
6 am on the Dayton Public Schools Board of  
7 Education, but I am here as a private citizen. I  
8 want to thank you for all your time that you have  
9 given to the citizens tonight to hear our  
10 testimony.

11           I have sat through meetings like this on  
12 your side of the table, and it's a lot of work.  
13 But I really value the dedication that you hold,  
14 and I actually want to extend a thank you to the  
15 citizens that have given testimony today too.  
16 It's past 8:30. We have been here for more than  
17 four hours, and I'm really grateful for everybody  
18 in this room who cares about democracy.

19           I actually attended the meeting on August  
20 24th at Sinclair Community College. I didn't  
21 testify then, but I chose to listen to what people  
22 had to say then. And I really hoped that when you  
23 guys released maps, that they would have been  
24 reflective of the testimony that was given that  
25 day and on other days.

1           Constituents were pleading with you to  
2     make Ohio stronger by drawing fair maps, not just  
3     Democrats but Republicans. There was a different  
4     meeting a few days later, where a citizen named  
5     Christopher Hicks said, "Republicans and Democrats  
6     are sick of this. I want my Republicans to feel  
7     some heat." It's not just Democrats. This is  
8     bipartisan.

9           The Ohio Constitution clearly says that a  
10    map cannot be drawn to favor or disfavor a party.  
11    Ohio's average map wide vote share is 46 percent  
12    Democrat and 54 percent Republican. This proposed  
13    map will give us -- I know you have had these  
14    numbers again, but I'm going to repeat them  
15    because it's really important -- it will give us  
16    for House seats 32 percent Democrat, 68 percent  
17    Republican, for Senate seats, 30 percent  
18    Democratic, 70 Percent Republican. It is even  
19    more gerrymandered than the current district  
20    lines.

21           Montgomery County itself went for Biden  
22    51 to 47. These maps would give the county four  
23    Republican seats and one Democratic seats, and  
24    currently, we have two Senate seats in this county  
25    with zero Democratic representation, zero.

1           These maps pack minority black  
2     populations into House districts. They are not  
3     compact, and they have ridiculous boundaries that  
4     are deliberately designed to result in a  
5     gerrymandered election result. This is not what  
6     we voted for when the redistricting ballot  
7     initiative went over more than 70 percent of Ohio  
8     voters. Three out of four voters in Ohio asked  
9     for something better than this.

10           Secretary LaRose, at the beginning of the  
11     meeting, you asked that we come together in unity,  
12     and I would just like to point out that we came  
13     together in unity when we voted for fair  
14     districts. This is an egregious abuse of power.  
15     It is unconstitutional. It will likely cost  
16     taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees when  
17     it's challenged in the courts.

18           As a fellow elected official, I want to  
19     speak to you really quickly as well. I took an  
20     oath of office, where I swore to uphold the  
21     Constitution, and I know all of you did too. I  
22     would ask you to abide by that oath of office that  
23     you took. Thank you.

24           CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for your  
25     testimony.

1 Amina Wase?

2 Oh. I'm sorry. Do you have a question?

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sorry. I just wanted  
4 to ask her a question.

5 MS. WASE: Hi. Good evening. It's Amina  
6 Wase, A-m-i-n-a, W-a-s-e. So a lot of what I was  
7 saying has already been said too, but I'm going to  
8 reiterate to the members of the Ohio Redistricting  
9 Commission. My name is Amina Wase, and I live  
10 here in Centerville, placing me in Ohio District  
11 42 and Senate District 6.

12 I'm 17 years old. So I can't vote yet,  
13 and I go to Centerville High School, which is just  
14 down the road. So I'm speaking here today as a  
15 Muslim American who has been civically engaged in  
16 my community, this past summer especially with  
17 CAIR-Ohio, which is Council on American Islamic  
18 Relations. They are a nonprofit, nonpartisan  
19 company, national company, that advocates for  
20 Muslim civil rights.

21 So what I have done in my community this  
22 summer is I have created events at my local  
23 mosque, Dayton Mercy Society in Miamisburg, about  
24 10 minutes from here, and I have actually rallied  
25 about 35, 40 concerned Muslims and created

1 community maps, educated people my father's age  
2 about what gerrymandering is.

3 And I got them to submit these maps, and  
4 we realize we did this in closeness with CAIR. We  
5 got about 80 collectively, and we submitted them  
6 to the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission.

7 And grassroots events like this are very  
8 hard to come by, and they are very hard to  
9 produce. I feel that my efforts have not been  
10 heard. Our maps have not been seen. There is so  
11 much input. We have put hundreds of hours into  
12 this, and I feel really hopeless, honestly. And  
13 I'm not even old enough to vote yet.

14 My community right now is split. My  
15 Muslim community is split. Bellbrook,  
16 Centerville, Springville, and Miamisburg has huge  
17 Muslim -- significant Muslim populations. And  
18 right now, we're split, and it's not fair. It's  
19 undemocratic. It's un-American, and I feel like  
20 my voice has been silenced by political  
21 oppositions and games. And I cannot vote yet,  
22 again.

23 One note I just wanted to point out in  
24 May '21 this year, I was taking my U.S. AP Gov  
25 Exam, Government and Politics Exam, and this is by

1 the College Board, which administers the SAT, like  
2 every reputable test. It is like the foundation  
3 of education in America. And the first question  
4 on the free response question page was about  
5 Ohio's gerrymandering. It was a chart labeling  
6 what Ohio voters wanted and what they received in  
7 representation. Three hundred and twenty thousand  
8 students took that test. One hundred and sixty  
9 thousand high school students were able to  
10 essentially identify that that was gerrymandering.

11 And I feel that some people on this  
12 Commission cannot even accept that this is  
13 gerrymandering, and that's frustrating when I feel  
14 like people my age can see that. And we aren't  
15 even able to vote yet. So I just wanted to  
16 express my frustration with this and hope that  
17 this does get better, from a young person's  
18 perspective -- because I haven't seen many young  
19 people here -- and as a Muslim as well.

20 But thank you to the Redistricting  
21 Commission for allowing me to speak, and thank you  
22 all for listening. And I'm actually from  
23 Centerville. So if you're here coming from out of  
24 town, you should definitely visit Bill's Donuts,  
25 which is ranked number two in the country. That's

1 actually a thing. So it is like down the street.

2 You should definitely visit. Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR CUPP: I do have a question, and  
4 first of all, thank you for your testimony. Thank  
5 you for your enthusiasm and your interest and your  
6 work.

7 MS. WASE: Thank you.

8 CO-CHAIR CUPP: But my question is: is  
9 Bill Donuts still open at this hour?

10 MS. WASE: Yes, 24 hours.

11 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Yes.  
12 Secretary LaRose?

13 SECRETARY LAROSE: Thank you, Co-  
14 Chairman.

15 Two questions. One is you mentioned that  
16 you and some other folks in your community have  
17 worked to draw a map, and you were concerned that  
18 your map had not been seen yet. Is that one of  
19 the maps that has been uploaded to our site, and  
20 what is the name of it, so that I can refer to it?

21 MS. WASE: Yes. They are all affiliated  
22 with CAIR-Ohio. They have been uploaded to the  
23 Ohio Redistricting.gov, and they were actually  
24 used -- they were considered in the drawing of the  
25 Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission, which I

1 don't know was considered or not with these maps.  
2 But that's the work I did. So I put in hours, and  
3 I would appreciate if something was done about it.

4 SECRETARY LAROSE: Awesome. And second  
5 question is -- and I'm putting on my Secretary of  
6 State hat here for a second because you seem like  
7 somebody that is very engaged. And I hope you  
8 consider signing up to be a poll worker because 17  
9 year olds, even though you can't vote yet, you can  
10 sign up to be a poll worker. And as soon as you  
11 are ready, make sure you register to vote at  
12 Ohio.gov.

13 MS. WASE: I already have registered to  
14 vote.

15 SECRETARY LAROSE: Awesome. Thank you so  
16 much.

17 MS. WASE: Thank you.

18 SECRETARY LAROSE: Yeah. Thank you.

19 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Leader Sykes has a  
20 question. We're not going to let you get off that  
21 easy. So Leader Sykes has a question.

22 LEADER SYKES: Thank you so much for  
23 coming, and first, I just want to commend you as a  
24 young woman of color. I know you often will walk  
25 into spaces and see people who are not like you in

1 front of you, and so I just would encourage you to  
2 keep speaking up and keep talking. And I really  
3 appreciate your enthusiasm and your presence. It  
4 is refreshing for me, certainly.

5 MS. WASE: Thank you.

6 LEADER SYKES: So you are inspiring me  
7 today. I do want to ask you and you had some very  
8 specific details about the Muslim community here  
9 in Montgomery County, and you listed a few cities.  
10 Would you mind saying those again for me just a  
11 little bit slower so I can write them down?

12 MS. WASE: Bellbrook, Centerville, and  
13 Miamisburg. There is a mosque in Bellbrook called  
14 Al-Huda Mosque. It attracts a large Arab  
15 population, and you may not see it from the census  
16 results as in race because Arabs have to check  
17 Caucasian, which is a whole other story, but that  
18 is why you don't see that -- like why it looks so  
19 majority white, when really there's a fair amount  
20 of diversity there. And Centerville is very  
21 diverse and has a huge Muslim community as well.

22 LEADER SYKES: Great.

23 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right. Thank you.

24 MS. WASE: Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for staying, as

1 well.

2 MS. WASE: Thank you.

3 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes. That concludes all  
4 of the witness slips that we have for this  
5 evening.

6 DR. ENOCH: I actually put in a witness  
7 slip. I was one of the first people here.

8 CO-CHAIR CUPP: All right.

9 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: What's your  
10 name?

11 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Well, we're trying to --  
12 I'm sorry. What was your name again?

13 DR. ENOCH: Dr. Vanessa Enoch.

14 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: We called our  
15 call.

16 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes. Come on up and  
17 state your name and spell it for the record here.  
18 And --

19 DR. ENOCH: My name, again, is  
20 Dr. Vanessa Enoch. That's V-a-n-e-s-s-a, E-n-o-c-  
21 h. And thank you very much for giving me the  
22 opportunity to speak.

23 As I said, I was one of the first people  
24 here today. I rushed here to make sure that I  
25 could get here on time to get a slip in because I

1 was not able to register ahead of time. So it is  
2 very disappointing that somehow my slip  
3 disappeared.

4 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: One  
5 clarification. I did call your name. Maybe, you  
6 know, somehow it may have been missed, but I did  
7 call your name previous.

8 DR. ENOCH: Okay. I did not hear my name  
9 called. I left the room twice to go to the  
10 restroom. So perhaps it was during one of those  
11 occasions. So thanks again.

12 I am active and engaged as a citizen in  
13 Cincinnati, Dayton, and various legislative  
14 districts throughout Ohio. Like my gay white male  
15 Democratic neighbor, who is married to a black man  
16 with a black child, I also live in the city of  
17 West Chester, Ohio.

18 In 2018 and 2020, I was elected as the  
19 Democratic nominee for the U.S. House of  
20 Representatives in the 8th Congressional District,  
21 when, as you know, because of gerrymandering, no  
22 new Democratic Congressional nominees were elected  
23 in either of those years across the State of Ohio.

24 I live in the 4th Senate District and the  
25 5th Statehouse District, but like my neighbor, as

1 a Democratic voter and a black citizen, I do not  
2 have substantive representation. I was  
3 disappointed that I learned that race was not  
4 taken into consideration when your proposed maps  
5 were drawn.

6 As Deidra Reese, a black citizen with the  
7 Ohio Unity Coalition, said when she saw the  
8 proposed maps, "You can actually look at race as a  
9 criteria. It just cannot be the only criteria."

10 Reese said not considering race made her  
11 feel invisible and unheard. She went on to say  
12 that, "If you cannot use race to crack a district  
13 apart to diminish the ability of a community of  
14 color to be able to have influence, how can you  
15 not look at race?"

16 Although your choice seems fair on its  
17 face by not considering race, as a public policy  
18 scholar and practitioner, I disagree with the  
19 attorney who spoke earlier, who believes that the  
20 proposed maps do not violate the spirit of  
21 responsible public policy and due process  
22 provision of the 14th Amendment.

23 In fact, your proposed maps actually  
24 violate the Voting Rights Act, and one of the  
25 primary tenets of case law by ignoring Batson.

1 And to Miss Reese's point, when race is not  
2 considered, the issues and needs of black citizens  
3 are easily ignored.

4 In 1986, in the Batson v. Kentucky case,  
5 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that eliminating  
6 black jurors based on race is a violation of the  
7 Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.  
8 This case gave rise to what the legal community  
9 now calls the Batson Challenge. When black  
10 citizens are eliminated from having a voice, it  
11 has the same chilling effect as eliminating black  
12 jurors.

13 It eliminates the fairness of the process  
14 and leads to a lack of representation for black  
15 citizens. Your maps present the illusion of a  
16 fair system and encourages ordinary citizens to  
17 believe in the fairness of the system based upon  
18 the idea of colorblindness.

19 When race is not considered a factor in  
20 the division of districts, it subsequently can and  
21 has had the effect of taxation with out  
22 representation. Auditor Faber, so you ask for  
23 evidence that blacks haven't been able to have  
24 meaningful representation.

25 Let's take the U.S. House District 1 as

1 an example, the congressional district that has  
2 been gerrymandered for Republican Steve Chabot as  
3 proof you are looking for to determine that there  
4 has been a lack of representation for black  
5 citizens.

6 In the case of Cincinnati, for example,  
7 gerrymandering has created a tale of two cities.  
8 For blacks, it has meant that 76 percent of those  
9 living in poverty have black skin. Only 6.9  
10 business owners per 1000 resident are black.  
11 Black men live exactly 10 years less than white  
12 men. Black women live eight years less than white  
13 women.

14 And overall rates of diseases and  
15 conditions ranging from diabetes and cancer to  
16 high blood pressure and hypertension are  
17 significantly higher for American Americans in  
18 Cincinnati.

19 These are issues that can and should be  
20 resolved by public policy, which necessitates  
21 selecting fair districts and by looking at how  
22 your decisions impact communities of color.  
23 Representation matters.

24 Sharon Sullivan, a professor of  
25 philosophy at UNC, challenged the idea of

1 colorblindness and unconscious bias. She points  
2 out that although big-booted forms of conscious  
3 oppression still exist, in the early 21st century,  
4 white domination prefers silent tiptoeing to loud  
5 stomping.

6 She further points out that white  
7 privilege goes to great lengths not to be heard.  
8 Habits of white privilege are not merely  
9 nonconscious or preconscious. It is not the case  
10 that they just happen not to be the object of  
11 conscious reflection but could relatively easily  
12 become so only if they were drawn to one's  
13 attention.

14 The challenges with the idea of  
15 colorblindness as it extends to all our -- also  
16 extends to all of our government systems. Because  
17 in articulating the blindness of the system, one  
18 is to presume that the system is fair. By  
19 advancing the concept of colorblindness, the  
20 system can rid itself of diversity. Because who  
21 needs diversity if representation does not see  
22 color, right?

23 The fact of the matter is that we all  
24 bring our own life experiences and biases to every  
25 environment we enter. The legislature will never

1 be completely impartial, but through having equal  
2 access to the vote, black voters will have the  
3 opportunity to select representatives who care  
4 about our needs.

5           Since it is impossible to separate the  
6 person from their partiality, the only way to  
7 institute a fair system is to take difference into  
8 consideration in the fair districting process and  
9 to protect the vote of every citizen by ensuring  
10 that all Ohioans have equal access to the  
11 legislature.

12           Finally, the voters of the State of Ohio  
13 voted for fair maps. Eliminating the voices of  
14 black citizens by not considering how your  
15 proposed maps will impact Democratic and black  
16 voters falls short of the expressed desire.

17           As someone mentioned earlier, younger  
18 voters tend to be Democratic voters. When they  
19 don't have a choice, as was the case of my oldest  
20 child, when she completed her education, they  
21 leave. Innovation and creativity will leave with  
22 them.

23           At the end of the day, if everyone left  
24 in the room when this is all over has gray hair  
25 and hyperpartisan politics, democracy dies. Thank

1 you for allowing me to have a voice in this  
2 process.

3 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you for providing  
4 your voice, and we're sorry that it got mixed up.  
5 So you appear to be our final witness. So think  
6 of it that way. You're the last word.

7 DR. ENOCH: I was the last word in  
8 Cincinnati, and you know, I hope that my voice has  
9 the opportunity to count. I don't want to be the  
10 last word all of the time. I would like to be a  
11 voice that matters. So thank you.

12 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Thank you.

13 (Applauds)

14 That concludes our --

15 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: I think I have a  
16 --

17 CO-CHAIR CUPP: Yes. Sure. Please, go  
18 ahead.

19 CO-CHAIR SENATOR SYKES: You know,  
20 Secretary LaRose opened us up with a statement  
21 that he made to kind of set the stage for unity  
22 and for working together in a bipartisan way, and  
23 really, it was just a preamble and paled really to  
24 the heartfelt sentiments and appeals that we have  
25 heard here today.

1           And I'm just hopeful that we can take it  
2 to heart the comments made, the challenge that we  
3 have ahead of us that within the next three days  
4 we can come up with something that is bipartisan  
5 for the State of Ohio.

6           CO-CHAIR CUPP: We will work towards that  
7 goal in good faith. Well, that concludes our  
8 hearing this evening. Thanks to everyone who  
9 turned out to express your opinion or to listen to  
10 those who did, and for those who were watching  
11 online and for being better-informed citizens, and  
12 we appreciate that. And with that, the hearing is  
13 adjourned.

14                           (END OF AUDIO FILE)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the digital recording provided to me in this matter.

I do further certify that I am neither a relative, nor employee, nor attorney of any of the parties to this action, and that I am not financially interested in the action.



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Julie Thompson, CET-1036