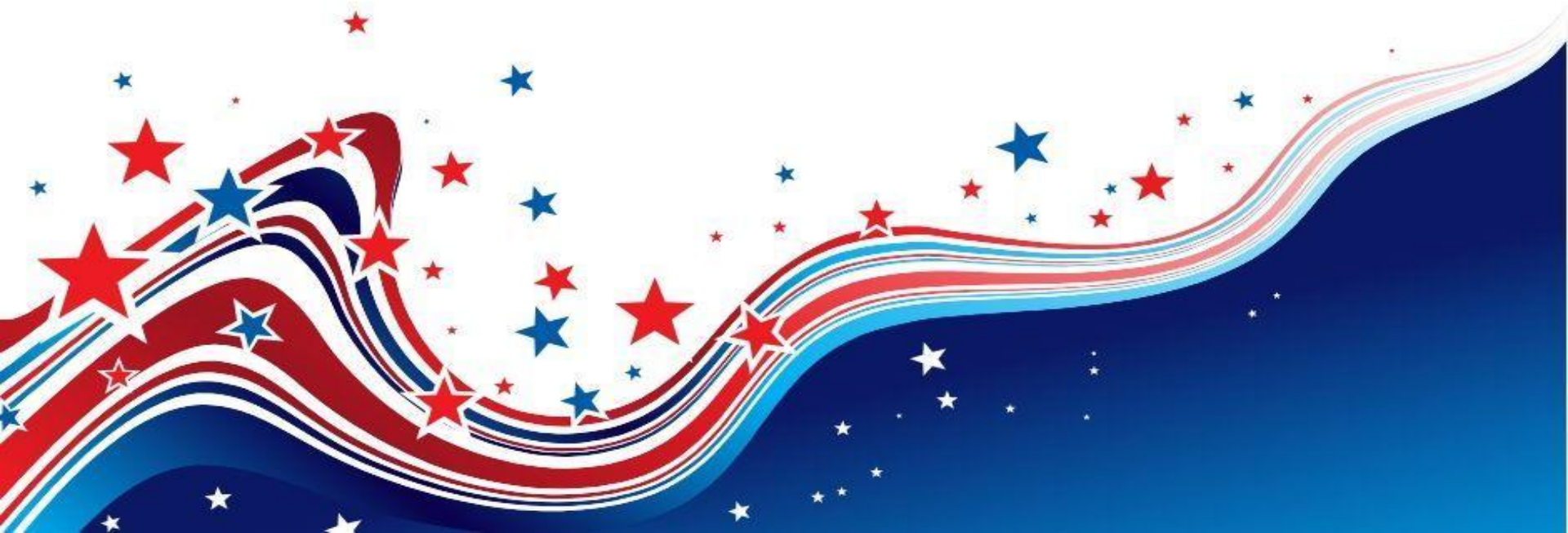




LWVO Statehouse Day

March 3, 2021



LWVO's History of Fighting Gerrymandering & Why This Year Matters



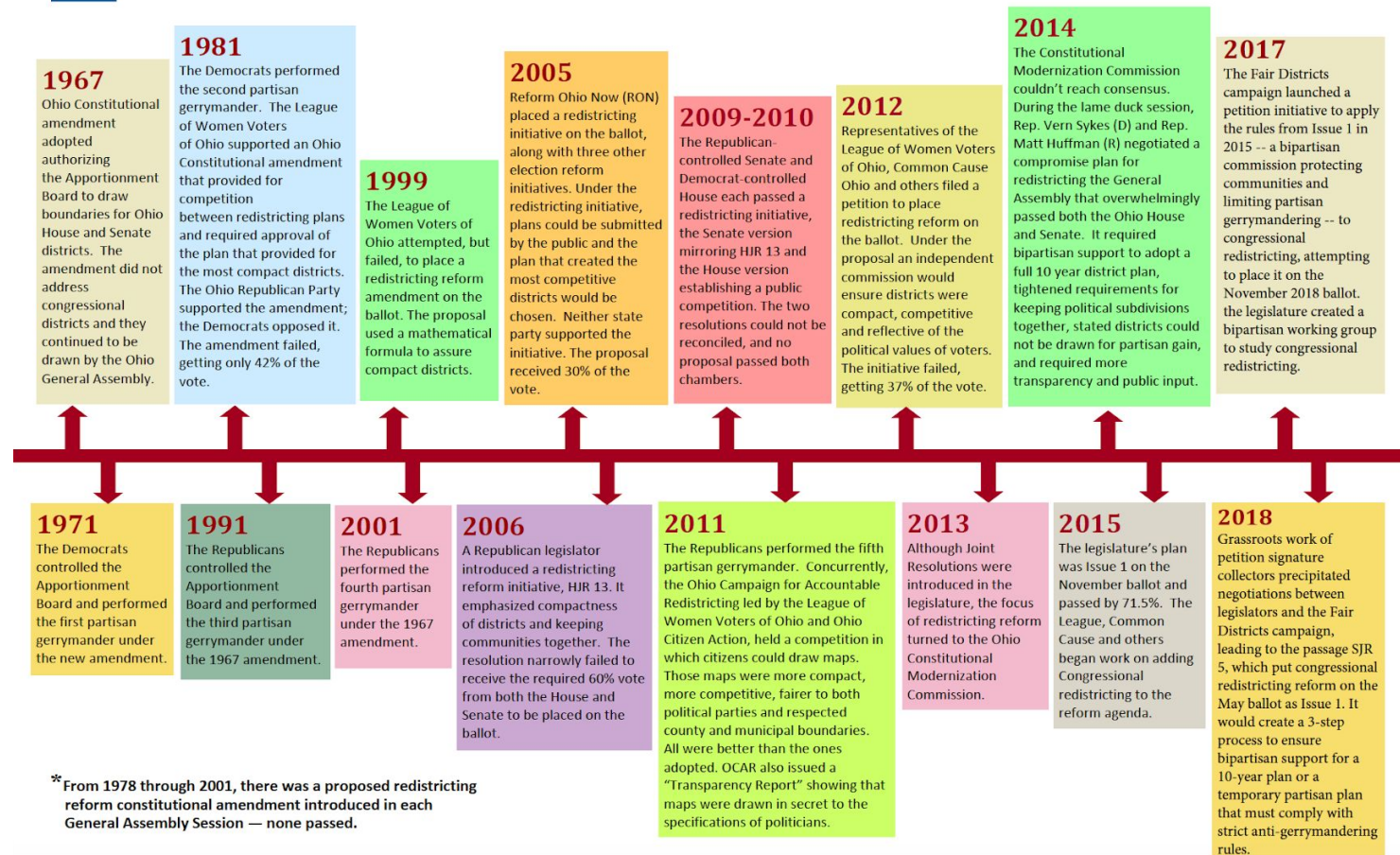
**Ann Henkener, LWVO
Redistricting Specialist**

**Jen Miller, LWVO Executive
Director (moderator)**

Timeline of Ohio Redistricting Reform History



Ohio Redistricting Reform History

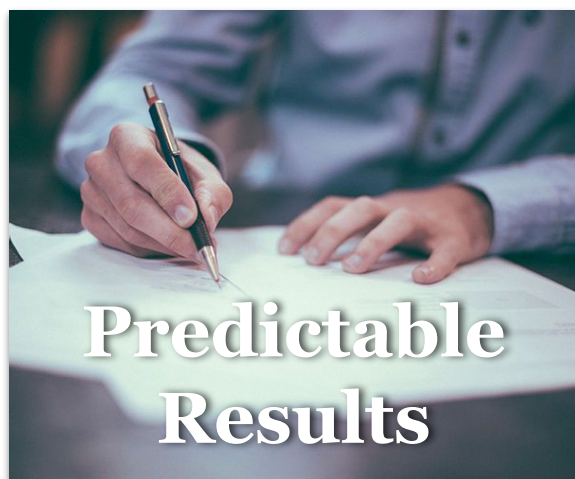


*From 1978 through 2001, there was a proposed redistricting reform constitutional amendment introduced in each General Assembly Session — none passed.

Additional Resources on Redistricting

You can read reports and more on the Fair Districts website:

<https://www.fairdistrictsohio.org/additional-resources>



Elephant in the Room

A photograph of a dark surface with a white, cracked glass effect, resembling shattered glass or a broken mirror. The text "Why Haven't We Fixed this Yet?" is overlaid in white.

Why Haven't We Fixed this Yet?

FAIR  **DISTRICTS**

Ohio Statehouse Map Making

Dr. David Niven, University of Cincinnati

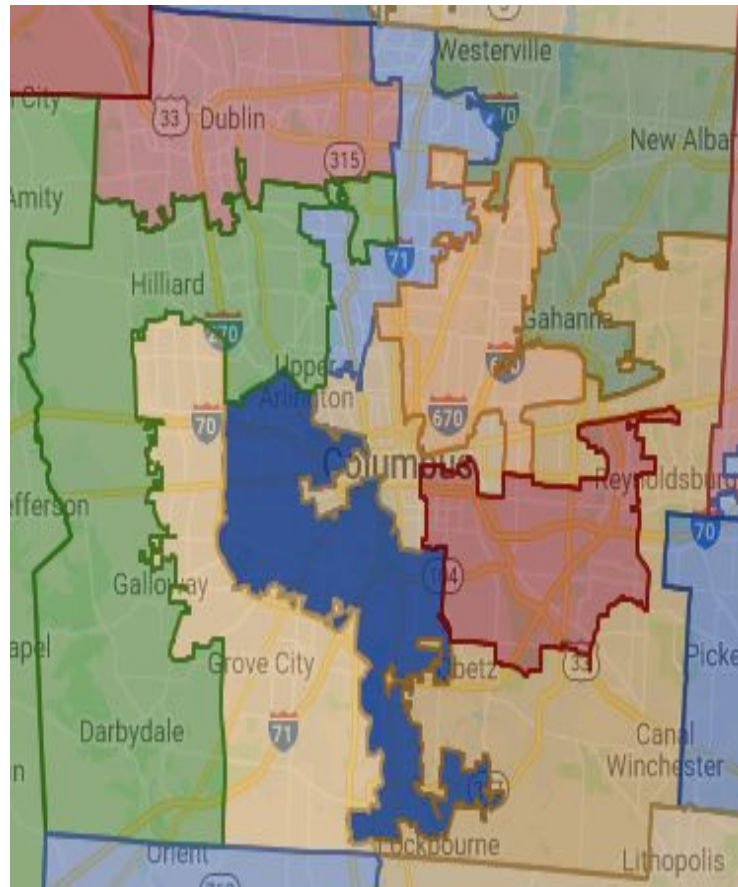
Dr. Michael Li, Brennan Center for Justice

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio
(moderator)

Ohio Statehouse Map Making

Dr. David Niven, University of Cincinnati

Gerrymandering Shapes the Ohio Legislature



State House Districts, Franklin County

U.S. House District 15 overlaps with...

State House Districts: OH-17,
OH-18, OH-20, OH-21,
OH-22, OH-23, OH-24,
OH-26, OH-72, OH-74,
OH-77, OH-78, OH-91,
OH-92, OH-93, OH-94

After 'do something' chants, DeWine says that's exactly what he's going to do

'Do something!' Those mourning Ohio shooting victims shout down Gov. Mike DeWine

'Do Something!': mourners at Dayton vigil urge Ohio governor to act on gun control

Crowd chants 'do something' as Ohio governor speaks during vigil for Dayton shooting victims

Poll: Ohioans support stricter background checks for all gun sales

90% of Ohio residents are in favor of gun background checks, poll shows

Ohioans want new gun restrictions, statewide poll from Baldwin Wallace finds

OHIO

Poll says 90% of Ohioans support gun background checks

Ohio Gov. DeWine reverses course on veto, signs 'stand your ground' bill eliminating duty to retreat

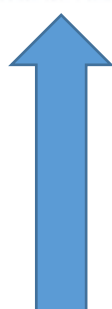
The “stand your ground” bill eliminates a duty to retreat before firing in self-defense at any place, including businesses, places of worship, or protests.

www.nrapvf.org > grades > ohio

NRA-PVF | Grades | Ohio

Grades & Endorsements not yet posted, please check back for updates. Make A Difference.

Get involved on the grassroots level by becoming an **NRA** volunteer ...



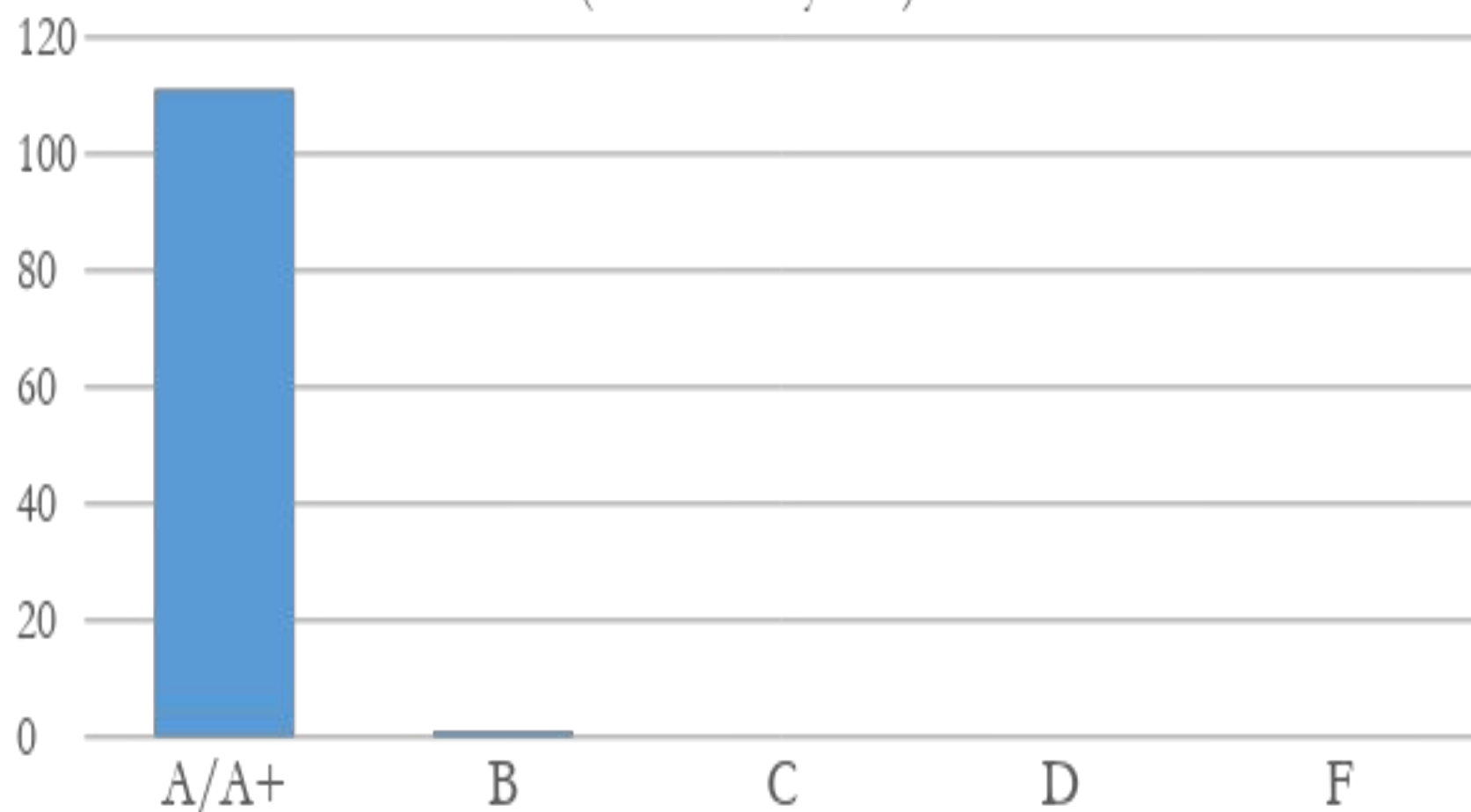
[RESOURCES](#)

NRA Grades Archive

6.14.2018

NRA "Grades" for Republican Members of Ohio General Assembly

(Source: Everytown)



Ohio Legislative Redistricting

Michael C. Li
Senior Counsel, Democracy Program
March 3, 2021

**BRENNAN
CENTER**

FOR JUSTICE

It's Complicated



Who Draws the Maps

Ohio Has a New System!

- Seven member bipartisan commission that will be 5-2
 - **Governor (R)**
 - **State Auditor (R)**
 - **Secretary of State (R)**
 - **House majority leader pick (R)**
 - **Senate majority leader pick (R)**
 - **House minority leader pick (D)**
 - **Senate minority leader pick (D)**

The Rules for Drawing Maps

The Rules

- Federal requirements:
 - Comply with the U.S. Constitution.
 - Comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

- State requirements:
 - Must be contiguous (single non-intersecting line).
 - Must follow a series of county-based rules, including rules on splits.
 - Must follow rules on population deviations: District cannot be larger than 105% or smaller than 95% of target population.

Lots of Rules on Counties

- Key part of reforms:
 - If county is not smaller than 95% or larger than 105% of target population, it gets its own district.
 - If county is *larger than 105%* of target population, it is divided into districts, with excess population going into one adjoining district.
 - Rest of state is combined into districts, with instructions to split the fewest number of municipal corporations and townships.

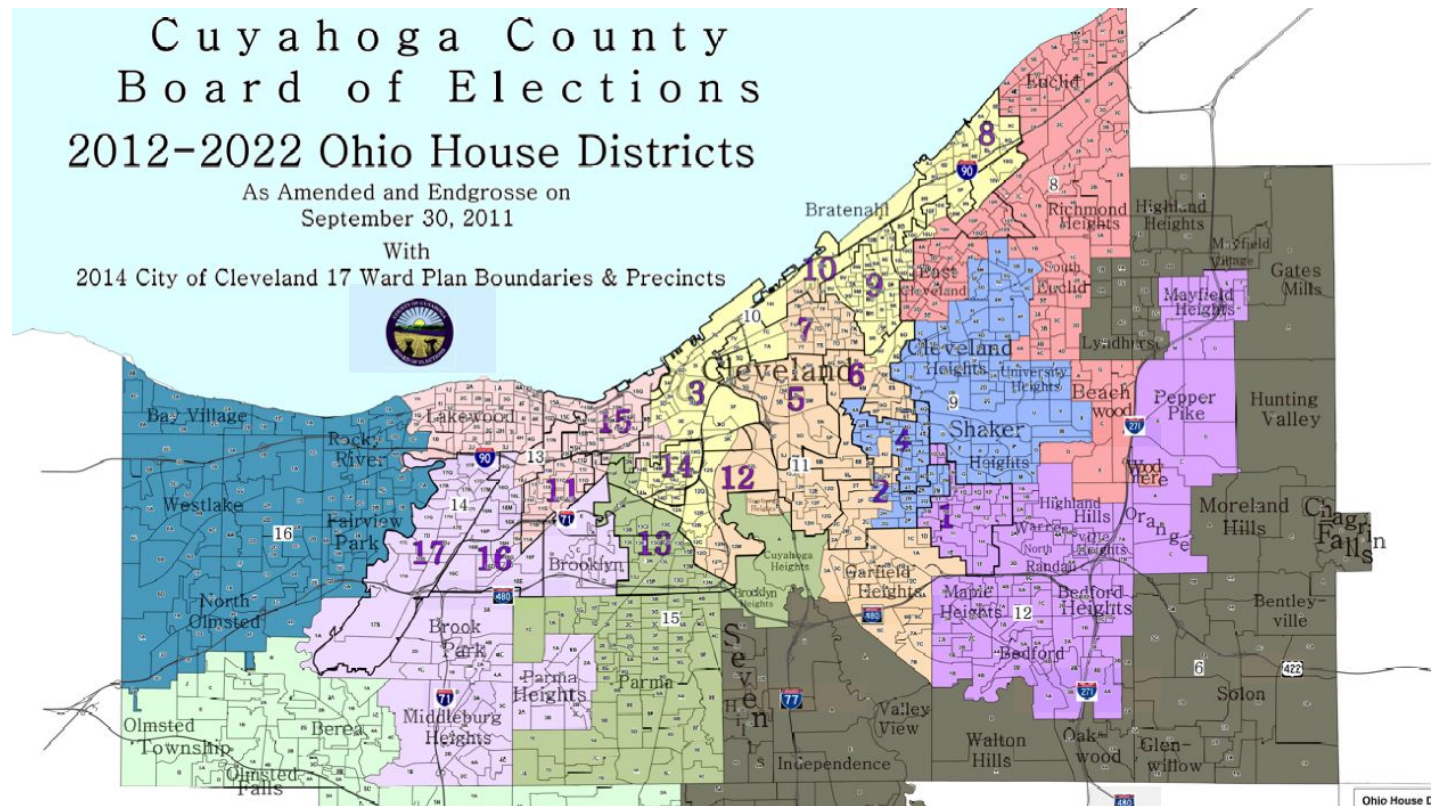
Partisan Fairness

- Plan cannot be “drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party.”
- Statewide proportion of districts “shall correspond closely to the statewide preference of the voters of Ohio.”

What's Not in the Rules

- Communities of interest (rules assume political subdivisions are the most important communities to Ohioans).
- State-law rules on protecting communities of color.

Still a Lot of Decisions to Be Made



Passing Maps

Rules for Passing a Map

- **Two routes** for passing a map:
 - OPTION 1: Map gets votes from a least two members of each major party (*i.e.*, both Democrats in this case). *Good until after 2030 census.*
 - OPTION 2: Map passes on a majority basis. *Good only for 2022 & 2024 elections and then must be redrawn for 2026 election.*
- Deadlock less likely under this system, but maps will not last whole decade.

Challenging Maps

Ohio Supreme Court Hears Redistricting Cases



Cases Also Can Be Brought in Federal Court



When Maps Will Be Drawn

Census Delays

Census Step	Old Date	New Date
Apportionment counts delivered to POTUS	Late December 2020	<i>April 30, 2021</i>
Block-level redistricting data delivered to states	Mid-February to March 31, 2021	<i>September 30, 2021 - or maybe (but probably not) later</i>

And Data Delivery is Only the Beginning

- Data will need to be **processed** to conform to the geography used by states to draw districts.
- Process can take a **couple of weeks** but can be **a month or more**.
- Means maps won't be able to pass until Late Fall at the earliest.

Redistricting Deadlines: Ohio - State Legislative

Ohio - State Legislative (Republican Control)

Legislative Session: January 4 – December 31, 2021

Event	Deadline
Redistricting	September 1, 2021 (final state legislative plans)
Backup Redistricting	September 15, 2021 (final state legislative plans, which must then be redrawn after 2024)
Primary Election	Candidate filing: February 2, 2022
	Ballots finalized: February 22, 2022
	Election: May 3, 2022
General Election	Ballots mailed: September 24, 2022
	Election: November 8, 2022

Delays Will Create a Real Crunch

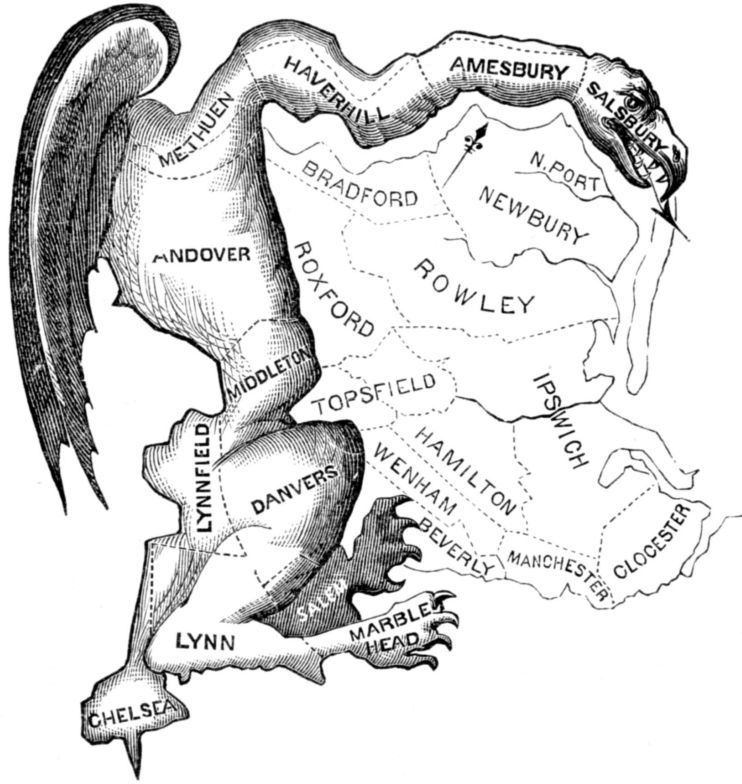
**Data
delays** ☐



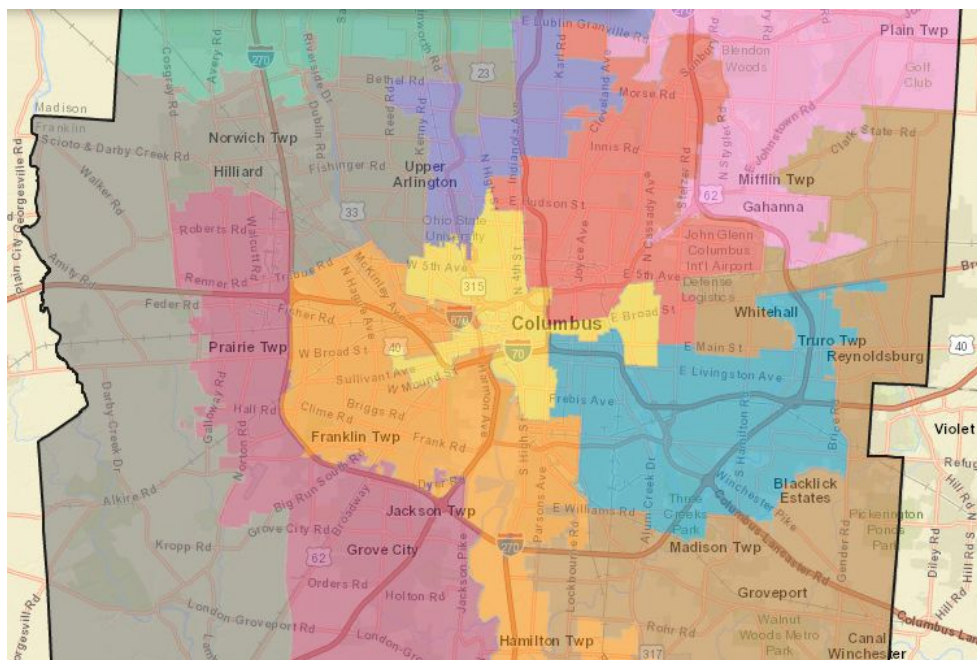
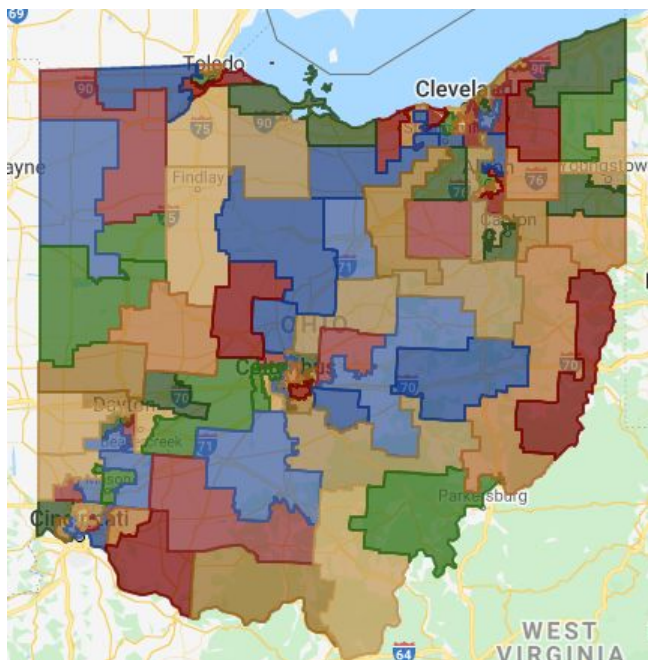
☐ **Election
schedule**

Ohio Statehouse Map Making

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio



Ohio House of Representatives (99 districts)





Ohioans want Fair maps!

- State legislative redistricting reform was overwhelmingly supported in 2015 and garnered **over 72% of the vote**
- Both reforms passed in **ALL 88 of Ohio's counties**
- Ohioans understand what gerrymandering is and why it is bad. They won't be hoodwinked this time around!
- Let your Ohio Representative and Senator know you are paying attention and demand fair maps for fair representation.



Ways to be involved: bit.ly/FairDistrictsJoinUs

- **Community Map-making:** Join as a facilitator or community member
- **Fair Districts Speakers Bureau:** Spread the word about how the new rules work and how to get involved
- **Map-making Competition:** Starting in the fall

Upcoming events:

fairdistrictsohio.org/upcoming-events

Promote transparency:

bit.ly/UrgeVirtualTestimony

Congressional Map Making

Dr. David Niven, University of Cincinnati

Dr. Michael Li, Brennan Center for Justice

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio
(moderator)

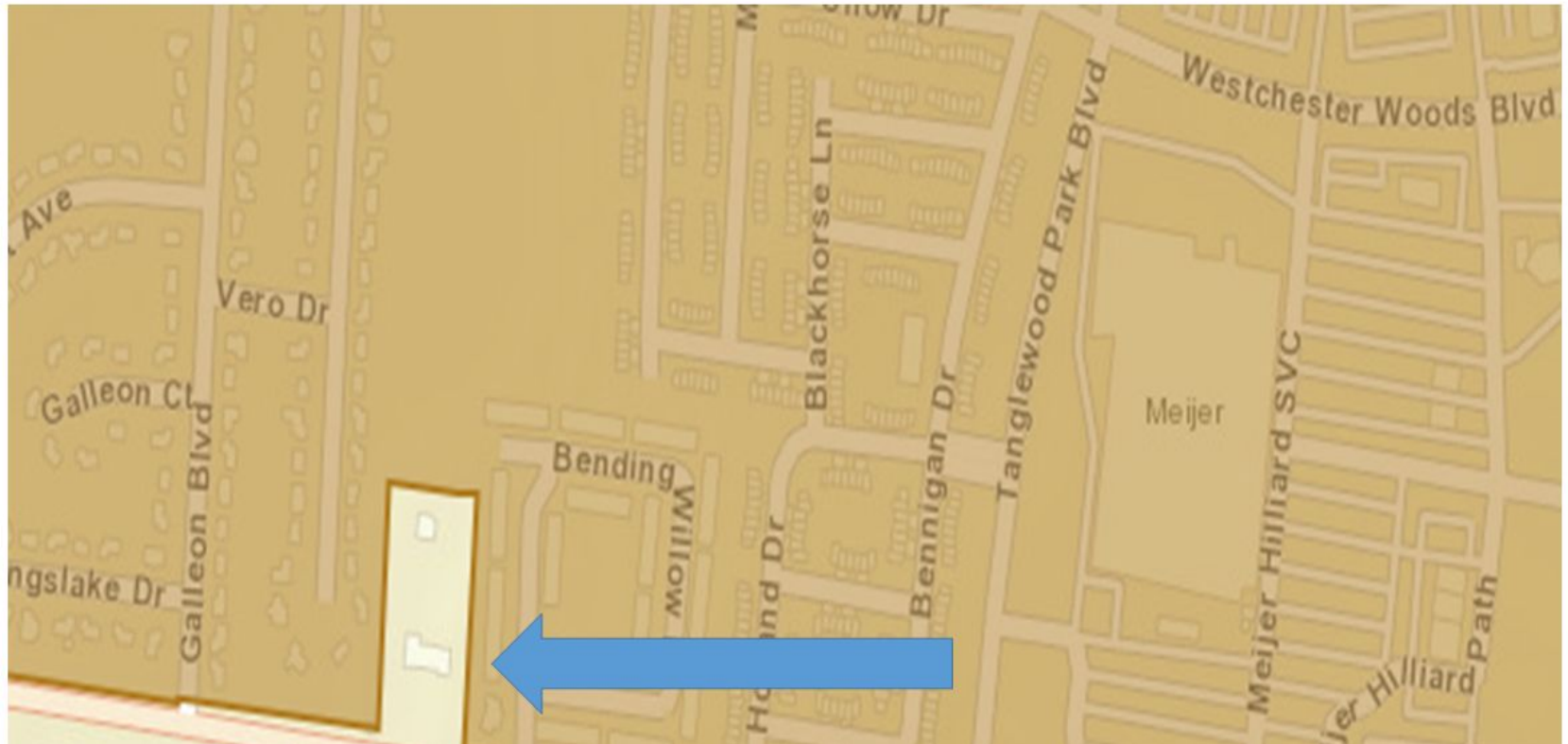
Congressional Map Making

Dr. David Niven, University of Cincinnati

Your Own Personal Congressional District

5800 Renner Road, Columbus.

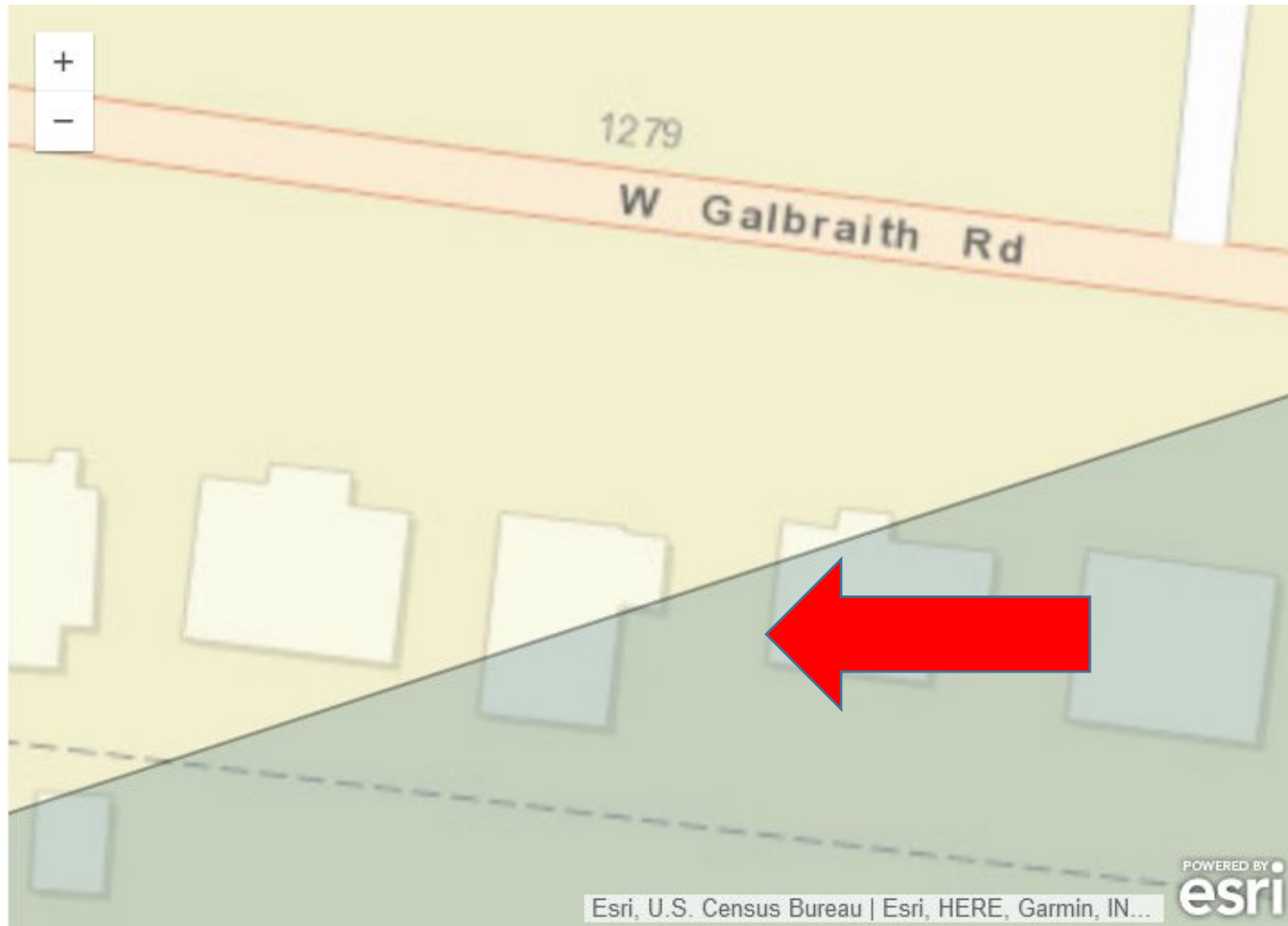
Shaded area 3rd District. Unshaded 15th District.



Your Own Personal Congressional District

1277 W. Galbraith Road, Cincinnati

Shaded area 1st District. Unshaded 2nd District.



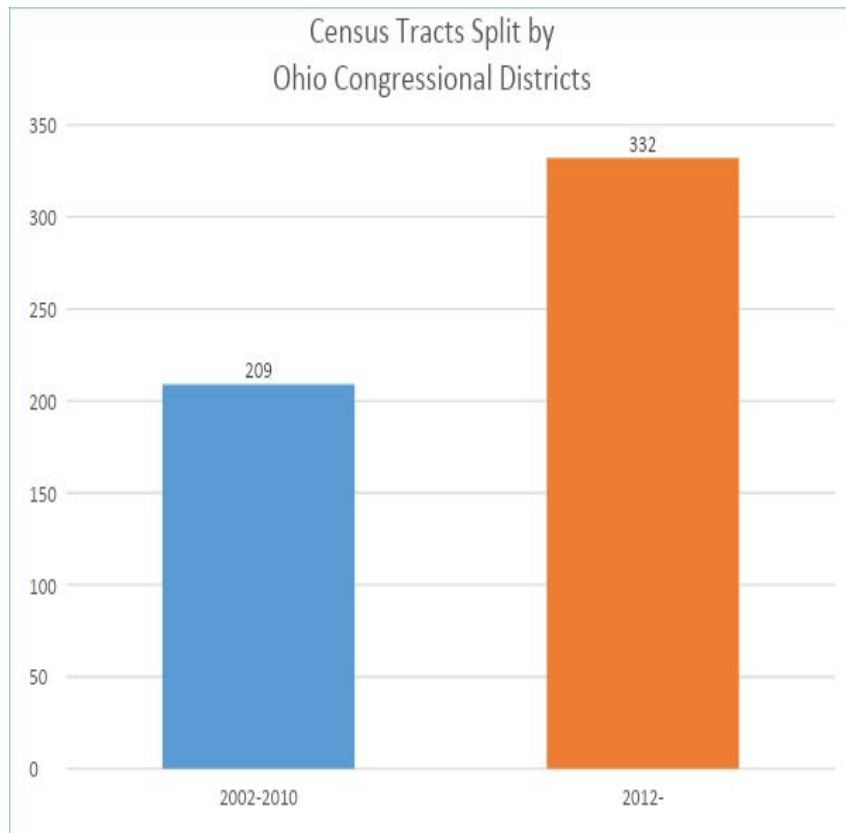
The Map is Undefeated

- Number of House districts that have switched hands over the ten year life of the map: **ZERO**

The Map is Undefeated

- Number of House districts that have switched *presidential support* over the ten year life of the map:
ZERO

Gerrymandering and Representation



59%
increase in
split Census
Tracts in
Ohio (from 2001 to
2011 Ohio Congressional Districts)

Gerrymandering and Representation

- Study: Split neighborhoods **decrease recognition** of incumbent and challenger candidates for Congress **by about 12%**

Ohio Congressional Redistricting

Michael C. Li
Senior Counsel, Democracy Program
March 3, 2021

**BRENNAN
CENTER**

FOR JUSTICE

It's Complicated



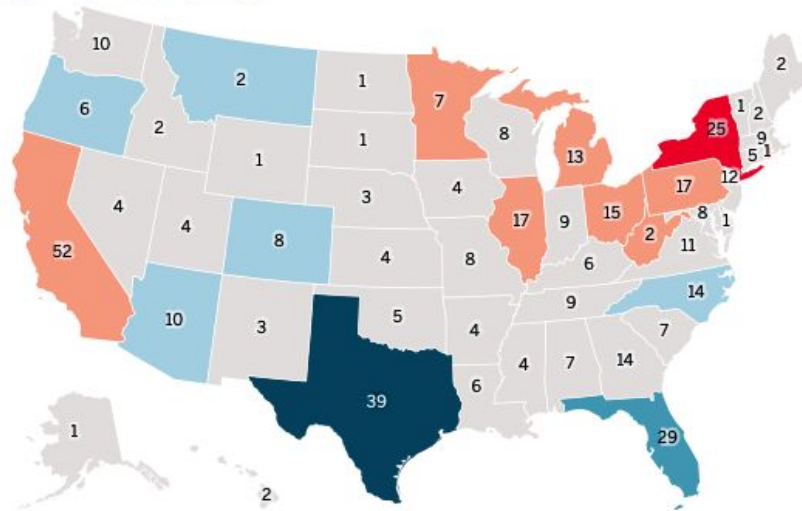
Ohio is Projected to Lose a District

FIGURE 6

Projected Gains and Losses in Congressional Districts After 2020 Census Results

Change in number of districts

● No change ● -2 ● -1 ● 1 ● 2 ● 3



Source: Brennan Center calculation based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States, Regions, States, and the District of Columbia, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020

Who Draws the Maps

Ohio Has a New System!

- Three steps:
 - **First Pass:** Legislature can pass with 3/5 supermajority, including 1/2 of minority party (Ds in this case). *Valid 10 years.*
 - **Second Pass:** Backup commission can pass map with support of at least two members from each major party. *Valid 10 years.*
 - **Third Pass:** Legislature can pass map with simple majority. *Maps only good for 2022 & 2024 election.*

The Backup Commission

- Seven member bipartisan commission that will be a 5-2 GOP majority:
 - **Governor (R)**
 - **State Auditor (R)**
 - **Secretary of State (R)**
 - **House majority leader pick (R)**
 - **Senate majority leader pick (R)**
 - **House minority leader pick (D)**
 - **Senate minority leader pick (D)**

The Rules for Drawing Maps

The Rules

- Federal requirements:
 - Comply with the **U.S. Constitution**.
 - Comply with the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**.
- State requirements (not ranked):
 - Must be **contiguous** (single non-intersecting line).
 - Must be **compact**.
 - (Very) detailed rules on counties

Lots of State Rules on Counties, Cities, and Townships

- Key part of reforms:
 - 65 counties cannot be split.
 - 18 counties may be split once.
 - 5 counties may be split twice.
 - Mapdrawer determines what counties fall into which category.

- Limits on splitting cities and townships, including large cities.
 - Large cities/townships shall form “significant portion” of districts.
 - Cities >100k but smaller districts cannot not be split except under certain circumstances.

Partisan Fairness

- If plan is passed by simple majority, a plan:
 - May not **unduly favor or disfavor** a **political party** or its **incumbents**
 - May not **unduly split governmental units** (counties, townships, and municipal corporations in that order)
 - **Compactness not required** (becomes aspirational)

Whew!



What's Not in the Rules

- State-law rules on protecting communities of color.
- General rules on communities of interest.

Challenging Maps

Ohio Supreme Court Hears Redistricting Cases



Cases Also Can Be Brought in Federal Court



When Maps Will Be Drawn

Census Delays

Census Step	Old Date	New Date
Apportionment counts delivered to POTUS	Late December 2020	<i>April 30, 2021</i>
Block-level redistricting data delivered to states	Mid-February to March 31, 2021	<i>September 30, 2021 - or maybe (but probably not) later</i>

And Data Delivery is Only the Beginning

- Data will need to be **processed** to conform to the geography used by states to draw districts.
- Process can take a **couple of weeks** but can be **a month or more**.
- Means maps won't be able to pass until Fall at the earliest.

Redistricting Deadlines: Ohio - Congressional

Ohio - Congressional (Republican Trifecta)

Legislative Session: January 4 – December 31, 2021

Event	Deadline
Redistricting	September 30, 2021 (final congressional plan)
Backup Redistricting	October 31, 2021 (backup commission passes final congressional plan)
	November 30, 2021 (legislature passes final congressional plan)
Primary Election	Candidate filing: February 2, 2022
	Ballots finalized: February 22, 2022
	Election: May 3, 2022
General Election	Ballots mailed: September 24, 2022
	Election: November 8, 2022

Delays Will Create a Real Crunch

**Data
delays** ☐



☐ **Election
schedule**

Possible Federal Reforms?

Potential Federal Reforms

- For the People Act (H.R. 1/ S.1)

- Ban gerrymandering
- Set uniform national rules for drawing of congressional districts

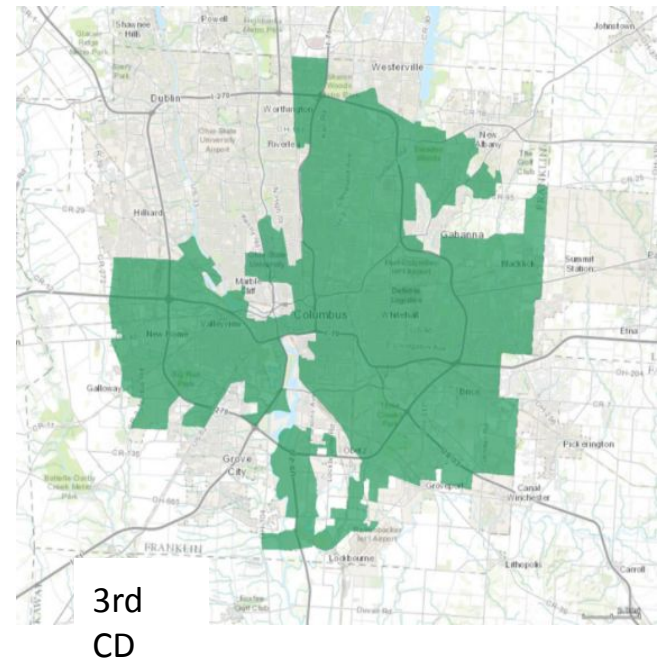
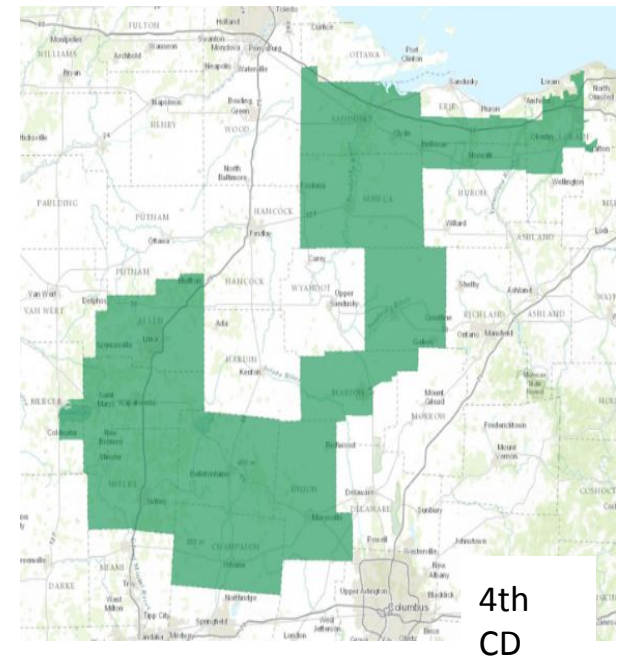
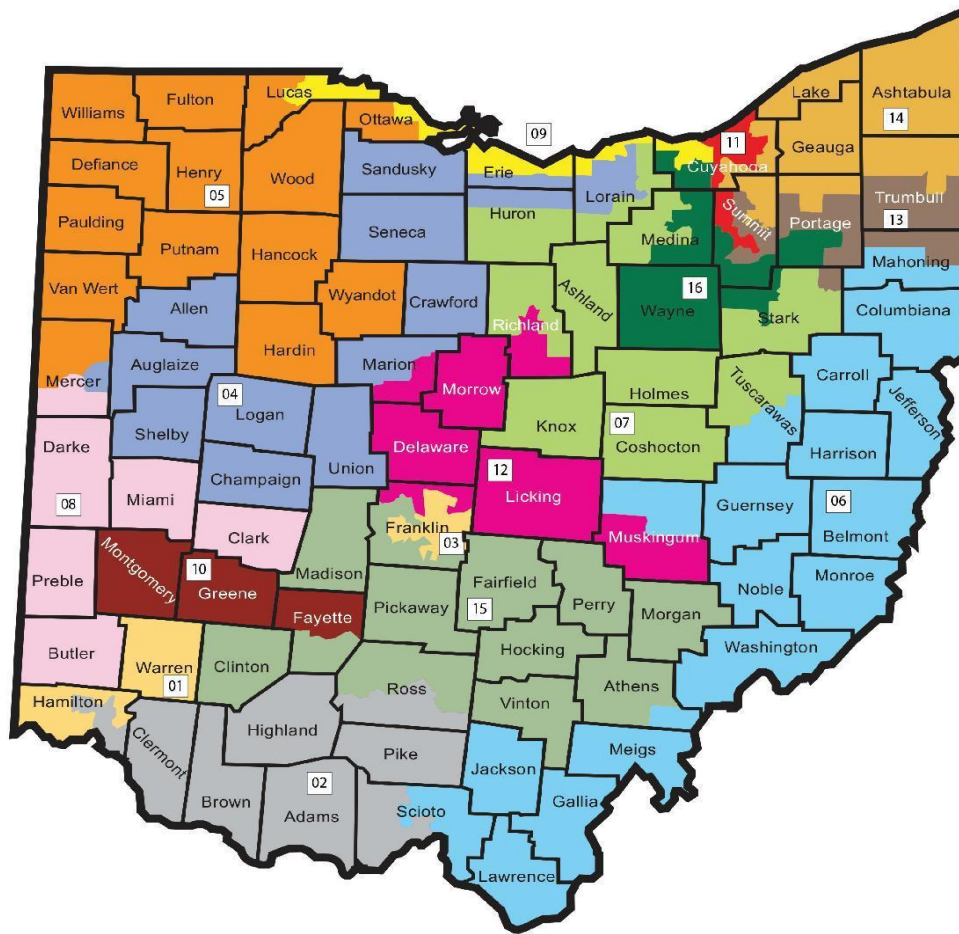
- John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)

- New Section 5 preclearance formula
- Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia

Congressional Map Making

Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio







Ways to be involved: bit.ly/FairDistrictsJoinUs

- **Community Map-making:** Join as a facilitator or community member
- **Fair Districts Speakers Bureau:** Spread the word about how the new rules work and how to get involved
- **Map-making Competition:** Starting in the fall

Upcoming events:

fairdistrictsohio.org/upcoming-events

Promote transparency:

bit.ly/UrgeVirtualTestimony

Thank You!

League of Women Voters of Ohio
100 East Broad Street, Suite 1310
Columbus, Ohio 43215

lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org

(614) 469-1505

www.lwvohio.org



[Twitter.com/lwvohio](https://twitter.com/lwvohio)



[Facebook.com/lwvohio](https://facebook.com/lwvohio)

