

**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF OHIO**

League Of Women Voters Of Ohio, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
	:	Case No. 2021-1193
Relators,	:	
v.	:	Original Action Pursuant to
	:	Ohio Const., Art. XI
Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	[Apportionment Case Pursuant
	:	to S. Ct. Prac. R. 1403]
Respondents.	:	

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Bria Bennett, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
	:	Case No. 2021-1198
Relators,	:	
v.	:	Original Action Pursuant to
	:	Ohio Const., Art. XI
Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	[Apportionment Case Pursuant
	:	to S. Ct. Prac. R. 1403]
Respondents.	:	

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The Ohio Organizing Collaborative, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
	:	Case No. 2021-1210
Relators,	:	
v.	:	Original Action Pursuant to
	:	Ohio Const., Art. XI
Ohio Redistricting Commission, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	[Apportionment Case Pursuant
	:	to S. Ct. Prac. R. 1403]
Respondents.	:	

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**APPENDIX OF EXHIBITS IN SUPPORT OF  
COMBINED RESPONSE OF RESPONDENT GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE TO (A)  
PETITIONERS' RENEWED MOTION FOR AN ORDER DIRECTING RESPONDENTS TO  
SHOW CAUSE AND MOTION TO SCHEDULE CONTEMPT HEARING; AND (B)  
PETITIONERS' OBJECTIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT PLAN ADOPTED ON  
MARCH 28, 2022 – VOLUME II**

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DAVE YOST  
Ohio Attorney General

John W. Zeiger (0010707)  
Marion H. Little, Jr. (0042679)  
Christopher J. Hogan (0079829)  
SPECIAL COUNSEL  
Zeiger, Tigges & Little LLP  
3500 Huntington Center  
41 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 365-9900  
(Fax) (614) 365-7900  
zeiger@litohio.com  
little@litohio.com  
hogan@litohio.com

*Counsel for Respondent  
Governor Mike DeWine*

*Additional Counsel are listed on the following pages.*

League Of Women Voters Of Ohio, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	Case No. 2021-1193
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---

COUNSEL FOR PETITIONERS:

Freda J. Levenson (0045916)  
Counsel of Record  
ACLU OF OHIO FOUNDATION, INC.  
4506 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
(614) 586-1972 x125  
flevenson@acluohio.org

David J. Carey (0088787)  
ACLU OF OHIO FOUNDATION, INC.  
1108 City Park Avenue, Suite 203  
Columbus, OH 43206  
(614) 586-1972 x2004  
dcarey@acluohio.org

Alora Thomas (PHV 22010-2021)  
Julie A. Ebenstein (PHV 25423-2021)  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 519-7866  
athomas@aclu.org

Anupam Sharma (PHV 25418-2021)  
Yale Fu (PHV 25419-2021)  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
3000 El Camino Real  
5 Palo Alto Square, 10th Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2112  
(650) 632-4700  
asharma@cov.com

Robert D. Fram (PHV 25414-2021)  
Donald Brown (PHV 25480-2021)  
David Denuyl (PHV 25452-2021)  
Joshua González (PHV 25424-2021)  
Juliana Goldrosen (PHV 25193-2021)  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
Salesforce Tower  
415 Mission Street, Suite 5400  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2533  
(415) 591-6000  
rfram@cov.com

Alex Thomson (PHV 25462-2021)  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
One CityCenter  
850 Tenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4956  
(202) 662-6000  
ajthomson@cov.com

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS:

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bridget C. Coontz (0072919)  
Julie M. Pfeiffer (0069762)  
Michael A. Walton (0092201)  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Constitutional Offices Section  
30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-2872  
bridget.coontz@ohioago.gov

*Counsel for Respondents, Ohio Secretary  
of State LaRose, and Ohio Auditor Faber*

Erik Clark (0078732)  
Ashley Merino (0096853)  
ORGAN LAW, LLP  
1330 Dublin Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 481-0900  
ejclark@organlegal.com  
amerino@organlegal.com

*Counsel for Respondent Ohio Redistricting  
Commission*

Phillip J. Strach  
Thomas A. Farr  
John E. Branch, III  
Alyssa M. Riggins  
NELSON MULLINS RILEY &  
SCARBOROUGH, LLP  
4140 Parklake Ave., Suite 200  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612  
(919) 329-3812  
phil.strach@nelsonmullins.com  
tom.farr@nelsonmullins.com  
john.branch@nelsonmullins.com  
alyssa.riggins@nelsonmullins.com

Counsel for Respondents House Speaker  
Robert R. Cupp and Senate President  
Matt Huffman

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---

**COUNSEL FOR PETITIONERS:**

Abha Khanna (PHV 2189-2021)  
Ben Stafford (PHV 25433-2021)  
ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP  
1700 Seventh Ave, Suite 2100  
Seattle, WA 98101  
T: (206) 656-0176  
F: (206) 656-0180  
akhanna@elias.law  
bstafford@elias.law

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

Jyoti Jasrasaria (PHV 25401-2021)  
Spencer W. Klein (PHV 25432-2021)  
ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP  
10 G St NE, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20002  
T: (202) 968-4490  
F: (202) 968-4498  
jjasrasaria@elias.law  
sklein@elias.law

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS:

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Bridget C. Coontz (0072919)  
Julie M. Pfeiffer (0069762)  
Michael Walton (0092201)  
OFFICE OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY  
GENERAL  
30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
T: (614) 466-2872  
F: (614) 728-7592  
Bridget.Coontz@OhioAGO.gov  
Julie.Pfeiffer@OhioAGO.gov  
Michael.Walton@OhioAGO.gov

*Counsel for Respondents Ohio Secretary  
of State Frank LaRose, and Ohio Auditor  
Keith Faber*

Erik J. Clark (0078732)  
Ashley Merino (0096853)  
ORGAN LAW LLP  
1330 Dublin Road  
Columbus, OH 43215  
T: (614) 481-0900  
F: (614) 481-0904  
ejclark@organlegal.com  
amerino@organlegal.com

*Counsel for Respondent Ohio Redistricting  
Commission*

W. Stuart Dornette (0002955)  
Beth A. Bryan (0082076)  
Philip D. Williamson (0097174)  
TAFT STETTINIUS & HOLLISTER LLP  
425 Walnut St., Suite 1800  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3957  
T: (513) 381-2838  
dornette@taftlaw.com  
bryan@taftlaw.com  
pwilliamson@taftlaw.com

Phillip J. Strach  
Thomas A. Farr  
John E. Branch, III  
Alyssa M. Riggins  
NELSON MULLINS RILEY &  
SCARBOROUGH LLP  
4140 Parklake Ave., Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
phil.strach@nelsonmullins.com  
tom.farr@nelsonmullins.com  
john.branch@nelsonmullins.com  
alyssa.riggins@nelsonmullins.com  
T: (919) 329-3812

*Counsel for Respondents Senate  
President Matt Huffman and House  
Speaker Robert Cupp*

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Respondents.	:	

---

**COUNSEL FOR PETITIONERS:**

Alicia L. Bannon (PHV 25409-2022)  
Yurij Rudensky (PHV 25422-2022)  
Harry Black (PHV 25544-2022)  
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE  
AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW  
120 Broadway, Suite 1750  
New York, NY 10271  
Tel: (646) 292-8310  
Fax: (212) 463-7308  
alicia.bannon@nyu.edu

Peter M. Ellis (0070264)  
*Counsel of Record*  
M. Patrick Yingling (PHV 10145-2022)  
REED SMITH LLP  
10 South Wacker Drive, 40th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Tel: (312) 207-1000  
Fax: (312) 207-6400  
pellis@reedsmith.com

Brad A. Funari (PHV 3139-2022)  
Danielle L. Stewart (0084086)  
Reed Smith Centre  
REED SMITH LLP  
225 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Tel: (412) 288-4583  
Fax: (412) 288-3063  
bfunari@reedsmith.com  
dstewart@reedsmith.com

Brian A. Sutherland (PHV 25406-2022)  
REED SMITH LLP  
101 Second Street, Suite 1800  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Tel: (415) 543-8700  
Fax: (415) 391-8269  
bsutherland@reedsmith.com

Ben R. Fliegel (PHV 25411-2022)  
REED SMITH LLP  
355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2900  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Tel: (213) 457-8000  
Fax: (213) 457-8080  
bfliegel@reedsmith.com

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS:

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bridget C. Coontz (0072919)

*Counsel of Record*

Julie M. Pfeiffer (0069762)

Michael A. Walton (0092201)

*Assistant Attorneys General*

Michael J. Hendershot (0081842)

*Deputy Solicitor*

30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Tel: (614) 466-2872

Fax: (614) 728-7592

bridget.coontz@ohioago.gov

julie.pfeiffer@ohioago.gov

michael.walton@ohioago.gov

michael.hendershot@ohioago.gov

*Counsel for Respondents*

*Secretary of State Frank LaRose, and*

*Auditor Keith Faber*

Erik J. Clark (0078732)

*Counsel of Record*

Ashley Merino (0096853)

ORGAN LAW LLP

1330 Dublin Road

Columbus, Ohio 43215

T: (614) 481-0900

F: (614) 481-0904

ejclark@organlegal.com

amerino@organlegal.com

*Counsel for Respondent*

*Ohio Redistricting Commission*

Senator Vernon Sykes, pro se

Sd28@ohiosenate.gov

W. Stuart Dornette (0002955)

Beth A. Bryan (0082076)

Philip D. Williamson (0097174)

TAFT STETTINIUS & HOLLISTER LLP

425 Walnut St., Suite 1800

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3957

Tel: (513) 381-2838

Fax: (513) 381-0205

dornette@taftlaw.com

bryan@taftlaw.com

pwilliamson@taftlaw.com

Phillip J. Strach (PHV 25444-2021)

Thomas A. Farr (PHV 25461-2021)

John E. Branch, III (PHV 25460-2021)

Alyssa M. Riggins (PHV 25441-2021)

Greg McGuire (PHV 25483)

NELSON MULLINS RILEY

& SCARBOROUGH LLP

4140 Parklake Ave., Suite 200

Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

Tel: (919) 329-3812

Fax: (919) 329-3799

phil.strach@nelsonmullins.com

tom.farr@nelsonmullins.com

john.branch@nelsonmullins.com

alyssa.riggins@nelsonmullins.com

greg.mcguire@nelsonmullins.com

*Counsel for Respondents*

*Senate President Matt Huffman and*

*House Speaker Robert Cupp*

Minority Leader Allison Russo, pro se

Allison.Russo@ohiohouse.gov

Rep24@ohiohouse.gov



<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
J	Toledo Blade Editorial (10/4/2015)	APP000281-APP000283
K	Cincinnati.com/The Enquirer Editorial (10/21/2015)	APP000284-APP000285
L	Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment, Issue 1 (2015)	APP000286-APP000303

Respectfully submitted,

DAVE YOST  
Ohio Attorney General

/s/ Marion H. Little, Jr.  
John W. Zeiger (0010707)  
Marion H. Little, Jr. (0042679)  
Christopher J. Hogan (0079829)  
SPECIAL COUNSEL  
Zeiger, Tigges & Little LLP  
3500 Huntington Center  
41 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 365-9900  
(Fax) (614) 365-7900  
zeiger@litoio.com  
little@litoio.com  
hogan@litoio.com

*Counsel for Respondent  
Governor Mike DeWine*

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing was filed with the Court's electronic filing system on April 4, 2022, and served via email upon the following:

Freda J. Levenson, Esq.  
ACLU OF OHIO FOUNDATION, INC.  
4506 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
flevenson@acluohio.org

David J. Carey, Esq.  
ACLU OF OHIO FOUNDATION, INC.  
1108 City Park Avenue, Suite 203  
Columbus, OH 43206  
dcarey@acluohio.org

Alora Thomas, Esq.  
Julie A. Ebenstein, Esq.  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
athomas@aclu.org

Anupam Sharma, Esq.  
Yale Fu, Esq.  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
3000 El Camino Real  
5 Palo Alto Square, 10th Floor  
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2112  
asharma@cov.com

Robert D. Fram, Esq.  
Donald Brown, Esq.  
David Denuyl, Esq.  
Joshua González, Esq.  
Juliana Goldrosen, Esq.  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
Salesforce Tower  
415 Mission Street, Suite 5400  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2533  
rfram@cov.com

Abha Khanna, Esq.  
Ben Stafford, Esq.  
ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP  
1700 Seventh Ave, Suite 2100  
Seattle, WA 98101  
akhanna@elias.law  
bstafford@elias.law

Jyoti Jasrasaria, Esq.  
Spencer W. Klein, Esq.  
ELIAS LAW GROUP LLP  
10 G St NE, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20002  
jjasrasaria@elias.law  
sklein@elias.law

Donald J. McTigue, Esq.  
Derek S. Clinger, Esq.  
MCTIGUE COLOMBO & CLINGER LLC  
545 East Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
dmctigue@electionlawgroup.com  
dclinger@electionlawgroup.com

*Counsel for Petitioners*  
*Bria Bennett, et al.*

Alicia L. Bannon, Esq.  
Yurij Rudensky, Esq.  
Harry Black, Esq.  
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE  
AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW  
120 Broadway, Suite 1750  
New York, NY 10271  
alicia.bannon@nyu.edu

Alex Thomson, Esq.  
COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP  
One CityCenter  
850 Tenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-4956  
ajthomson@cov.com

*Counsel for Petitioners  
League of Women Voters of Ohio, et al.*

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Bridget C. Coontz, Esq.  
Julie M. Pfeiffer, Esq.  
Michael A. Walton, Esq.  
Michael J. Hendershot, Esq.  
30 E. Broad Street, 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
bridget.coontz@ohioago.gov  
julie.pfeiffer@ohioago.gov  
michael.walton@ohioago.gov  
michael.hendershot@ohioago.gov

*Counsel for Respondents  
Secretary of State Frank LaRose, and  
Auditor Keith Faber*

Erik J. Clark, Esq.  
Ashley Merino, Esq.  
ORGAN LAW LLP  
1330 Dublin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ejclark@organlegal.com  
amerino@organlegal.com

*Counsel for Respondent  
Ohio Redistricting Commission*

Senator Vernon Sykes, pro se  
Sd28@ohiosenate.gov

Minority Leader Allison Russo, pro se  
Allison.Russo@ohiohouse.gov  
Rep24@ohiohouse.gov

Peter M. Ellis, Esq.  
M. Patrick Yingling, Esq.  
REED SMITH LLP  
10 South Wacker Drive, 40th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60606  
pellis@reedsmith.com

Brad A. Funari, Esq.  
Danielle L. Stewart, Esq.  
Reed Smith Centre  
REED SMITH LLP  
225 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
bfunari@reedsmith.com  
dstewart@reedsmith.com

Brian A. Sutherland, Esq.  
REED SMITH LLP  
101 Second Street, Suite 1800  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
bsutherland@reedsmith.com

Ben R. Fliegel, Esq.  
REED SMITH LLP  
355 South Grand Avenue, Suite  
2900 Los Angeles, CA 90071  
bfliegel@reedsmith.com

*Counsel for Petitioners  
The Ohio Organizing Collaborative, et al.*

W. Stuart Dornette, Esq.  
Beth A. Bryan, Esq.  
Philip D. Williamson, Esq.  
TAFT STETTINIUS & HOLLISTER LLP  
425 Walnut St., Suite 1800  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-3957  
dornette@taftlaw.com  
bryan@taftlaw.com  
pwilliamson@taftlaw.com

Phillip J. Strach, Esq.  
Thomas A. Farr, Esq.  
John E. Branch, III, Esq.  
Alyssa M. Riggins, Esq.  
Greg McGuire (PHV 25483)

NELSON MULLINS RILEY &  
SCARBOROUGH LLP  
4140 Parklake Ave., Suite 200  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612  
phil.strach@nelsonmullins.com  
tom.farr@nelsonmullins.com  
john.branch@nelsonmullins.com  
alyssa.riggins@nelsonmullins.com  
greg.mcguire@nelsonmullins.com

*Counsel for Respondents  
Senate President Matt Huffman and  
House Speaker Robert Cupp*

/s/ Marion H. Little, Jr.  
Marion H. Little, Jr. (0042679)\

942930

# Yes on Issue 1

EXHIBIT

J

exhibitsticker.com

OCT 4, 2015

10:45 AM

The corrupt partisan system that Ohio voters must use to elect their state lawmakers is an assault on representative democracy. Issue 1 on next month's statewide ballot would restore a degree of fairness, accountability, and bipartisanship to the process. It deserves a YES vote.

Ohio long has been considered a swing state in national politics; polls suggest that voters' support is divided fairly evenly between the Republican and Democratic parties. Yet largely because GOP elected officials dominate the state board that draws district maps for the General Assembly, two-thirds of state lawmakers are Republicans.

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This is not just a reflection of recent election results, but also a product of deliberate gerrymandering aimed at maximizing Republican power (Democrats engaged in the same antics when they controlled state government). Ohio's rigged system of legislative districting leads to all sorts of pernicious outcomes.

Legislative gerrymandering promotes ideological extremism and discourages bipartisan compromise, often leading to the enactment of policies that most Ohioans oppose. It depresses political competition and choice, giving voters fewer incentives to participate.

It divides communities and counties — often bizarrely — and makes a mockery of the principle of “one person, one vote.” It unfairly favors incumbents and disenfranchises minority voters. A recent study by the League of Women Voters of Ohio concludes that the way the maps are drawn virtually dictates the outcomes of nearly all legislative elections.

Approval of Issue 1 would amend the Ohio Constitution to replace the five-member state Apportionment Board — four of whose members are

**APP-000281**

Republicans — with a seven-member redistricting commission that would include greater representation for the minority party. At least two members of each party would be required to approve a set of district maps for the state House and Senate that would remain in effect for 10 years, preventing either party from monopolizing the process.

The new system would be more transparent to voters by requiring public participation in reapportionment. It would create legislative districts that are more geographically compact, politically competitive, and reflective of voters' party preferences. The Ohio Supreme Court could order the commission to draw a new map if the one it produces unfairly favors either party.

Issue 1 could and should be stronger. It would not take effect until legislative districts are redrawn to reflect population shifts measured by the 2020 Census. Voters would have to wait until 2022 at the earliest to elect a more-representative legislature. And if the parties can't agree on new maps, that outcome could be delayed until 2026.

Nor does the ballot proposal affect Ohio's congressional delegation, which is gerrymandered even more outrageously than the General Assembly. Republicans hold 12 of the state's 16 seats in the U.S. House. Speaker John Boehner of Ohio has said that lopsided distribution suits him just fine, even though nationwide gerrymandering — and the ideological radicals it helped bring to the House — contributed to his pending departure from Congress.

Ohio would do better to remove altogether the power to draw political districts from elected officials of both parties, and entrust it to a nonpartisan, appointed citizens' commission; such panels are working well in other states. But twice in the past decade, Ohio voters rejected proposals that would have created such an independent commission.

For now, Issue 1 represents the only opportunity voters have to reject the anti-democratic status quo in legislative elections. The ballot proposal has the support of both parties, good-government lobbies, business and labor, interest groups of all ideological stripes, and organizations that represent minority voters.

Issue 1 would start to make the General Assembly more representative of all Ohioans, and less of a game that is fixed by politicians against voters. Vote YES on Issue 1.

*First Published October 4, 2015, 12:00am*

**OPINION | Opinion** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

# Editorial: Yes on Issue 1 to end politics as usual

**Enquirer editorial board**

Published 3:24 p.m. ET Oct. 21, 2015

Ohio voters fed up with politics as usual might be tempted to stay home Nov. 3.

That would be unfortunate, because this election offers a rare chance to change politics as usual – and without casting a single vote for a candidate. Ohioans simply need to vote for Issue 1.

Issue 1, placed on the ballot by the General Assembly with strong bipartisan support, would curb gerrymandering. It would create a new process for drawing legislative district lines that would improve the odds of general-election voters having a true choice and of our state lawmakers more accurately reflecting, well, us.

The Buckeye State is closely divided between Republicans and Democrats – depending who turns out in a given election year – but Republicans hold a supermajority in both the Ohio House and Senate. The current system of giving the party in power wide latitude to draw district maps has resulted in politicians picking their constituents instead of the other way around. Most districts are either strongly Republican or strongly Democratic, and the closest voters come to having a choice is in occasional primary races.

After several attempts to change the process over three-plus decades, Republicans and Democrats have come together on a reform that has many supporters and no organized opposition. Among its features:

- It creates a redistricting commission with least two members from the minority party and incentivizes bipartisan cooperation by stipulating if a new map is approved without two minority votes it has to be redrawn in four years instead of 10.
- All meetings of the redistricting commission must be open to the public.
- Mapping criteria include keeping communities together by not splitting cities, townships and counties when possible, and making the political distribution of the districts match the



political preferences of voters statewide.

Issue 1 has been endorsed not only by the state Republican and Democratic parties but also the League of Women Voters, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio AFL-CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union and others.

It would be naive to think all politics will or even *can* be removed from the process, but Issue 1 is a major improvement.

For too long, the party in power in Ohio – whichever party it happened to be – has taken advantage of the once-a-decade redistricting to draw the lines to its maximum benefit.

Let's make sure 2021 is different. Vote for Issue 1 on Nov. 3 to reform the process and so we can turn our attention to the other half of the gerrymandering problem: how Ohio's congressional lines are drawn.

Issue 1 ballot language

Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts

The proposed amendment would:

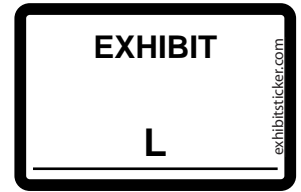
End the partisan process for drawing Ohio House and Senate districts, and replace it with a bipartisan process with the goal of having district boundaries that are more compact and politically competitive.

Ensure a transparent process by requiring public meetings, public display of maps, and a public letter explaining any plan the Commission adopts by a simple majority vote.

Establish the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, composed of 7 members including the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and 4 members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.

Require a bipartisan majority vote of 4 members in order to adopt any final district plan, and prevent deadlock by limiting the length of time any plan adopted without bipartisan support is effective.

If passed, the amendment will become effective immediately.



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# Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment, Issue 1 (2015)

[TEXT OF MEASURE](#) [BACKGROUND](#) [SUPPORT](#) [OPPOSITION](#) [MEDIA EDITORIALS](#) [POLLS](#)

[PATH TO THE BALLOT](#) [OHIO PROFILE](#)

The Ohio Bipartisan Redistricting Commission Amendment, Issue 1 was on the November 3, 2015, ballot in Ohio as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment, where it was approved.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

**Voting yes** would have increased minority party representation on Ohio's redistricting commission and established new requirements for district boundaries.

**Voting no** would have left current laws and the redistricting processes unchanged.

## Ohio Issue 1



Type Amendment  
 Origin Ohio Legislature  
 Topic Redistricting  
 Status Approved ✓

Ohio 2015  
 ballot

**APP-000286**

## Election results

Ohio Issue 1		
Result	Votes	Percentage

✔ Yes	2126822	71.47%
No	849043	28.53%

Issue 1 -  
Redistricting  
Issue 2 -  
Monopolies  
Issue 3 - Marijuana

Election results via: Ohio Secretary of State

All 2015 U.S.  
measures

## Introduction

The amendment created a new, bipartisan commission to draw legislative districts that are compact and do not favor one political party or another. The amendment takes effect in 2021 when the next redistricting will occur. Issue 1 is the fourth citizen initiative to attempt to change the redistricting process in the last 30 years.

### Who draws the boundaries?

The former system allowed a partisan five-member board that included the governor, state auditor, secretary of state and two members selected by the legislative leaders of the two major parties to draw legislative districts.

The amendment's system created a seven-member Ohio Redistricting Commission. The members are the governor, state auditor, secretary of state, one person appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one person appointed by the legislative leader of the largest political party in the House of which the speaker is not a member, one person appointed by the president of the Ohio Senate and one person appointed by the legislative leader of the largest political party in the Senate of which the president is not a member. The new commission requires two members from the minority party or 29 percent of the commission seats, versus a single member under the former system.<sup>[1]</sup>

### How are boundaries drawn differently?

To approve a redistricting plan for 10 years, at least two members from each major political party have to agree to the plan. If the commission fails to pass a plan by a bipartisan vote, members must pass a plan by a simple majority vote of any four members, but this plan only lasts four years.

All legislative districts are required to be compact and made of "contiguous territory, and the boundary of each district to be a single nonintersecting continuous line." The amendment forbids district plans from favoring or disfavoring either political party.

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Text of measure

Ballot title

The official ballot text was as follows:<sup>[3]</sup>

## Issue 1

“

Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly

To enact new Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Article XI and to repeal Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- End the partisan process for drawing Ohio House and Senate districts, and replace it with a bipartisan process with the goal of having district boundaries that are more compact and politically competitive.
- Ensure a transparent process by requiring public meetings, public displays of maps, and a public letter explaining any plan the Commission adopts by a simple majority vote.
- Establish the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, composed of 7 members including the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and 4 members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.
- Require a bipartisan majority of 4 members in order to adopt any final district plan, and prevent deadlock by limiting the length of time any plan adopted without bipartisan support is effective.

”

If passed, the amendment will become effective immediately.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Constitutional changes

*See also: Article XI, Ohio Constitution*

The amendment added 10 new sections to Article XI of the Ohio Constitution. The full text can be read below:<sup>[1]</sup>

Amendment to Article XI of the Ohio Constitution

[show]

## Background

*See also: Redistricting in Ohio*

## Former system

*See also: Ohio's state legislative redistricting process*

The Ohio Apportionment Board was responsible for state legislative redistricting. The board was composed of five members: the Governor, State Auditor, Secretary of State and two members selected by the legislative leaders of the two major parties. The Ohio Apportionment Board was not bipartisan. In 2011, four of the committee's five members were Republicans.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Criticism of former system



Former House Minority Leader Armond Budish (D-8) served as the only Democrat on the Ohio Apportionment Board during 2011's redistricting.

In the past, legislators disagreed on district lines and some have claimed maps created under the former system were a result of gerrymandering.

On September 28, 2011, the Ohio Apportionment Board approved the state's legislative redistricting plan for elections between 2012 and 2020. The *Dayton Daily News'* analysis found that less than half of the state's house districts and senate districts were considered competitive, which means the district leans no more than five percentage points toward either party. Twenty of the 99 house districts and seven of the state's 33 senate districts were competitive. The analysis also found that 51 of the house districts and 17 of the senate districts favored the GOP by five points or more.<sup>[6]</sup>

The board's only Democrat, Armond Budish (D-8), opposed the new maps, calling them a "blatant, hyper-partisan gerrymander." He said the map "quarantined" Democrats in one-third of Ohio's legislative districts.<sup>[7]</sup> Then-House Speaker William Batchelder (R-69) defended the maps, arguing that they were a fair revision of the previous plan. He also noted that the board doubled the number of districts where blacks are in the majority.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Previous measures

There have been three citizen initiatives focused on changing the redistricting system in Ohio in the past 30 years:<sup>[8]</sup>

- A 1981 measure, defeated with 58 percent of voters against it, that would have moved redistricting authority from the Ohio General Assembly to a state redistricting commission
- A 2005 measure, defeated with 69 percent of voters against it, that would have created a redistricting commission
- A 2012 measure, defeated with 63 percent of voters against it, that proposed a 12-person citizen commission to draw district maps

## Congressional districts

The amendment did not change how districts are drawn for the United States House of Representatives. The *Cincinnati Enquirer* editorial board, disagreeing with the measure's limits, argued the amendment "only addressed half the problem."<sup>[9]</sup> While there was a legislative push for congressional redistricting reform, proponents backed off after *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* was sent to the United States Supreme Court.<sup>[10]</sup> Critics, like the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, believe Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-8) pressured state lawmakers to change course after commenting on reform efforts. Boehner contended, "I frankly don't think it needs to be fixed," and later added, "For 40 years the Democrat Party had the pencil in their hands, and for the last 20 years we've had the pencil. When you've got the pencil in your hand, you're going to use it to the best of your advantage."<sup>[11]</sup> Boehner's office stated his intentions were to encourage legislators to wait until after *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* is resolved. Richard Gunther, a political science professor at Ohio State University who is involved in redistricting reform, said, "The actual argument I heard when I was engaged in negotiations was there was a tremendous amount of pressure from John Boehner not to go into this. Boehner is perfectly happy with the existing process, and he should be because it is outrageously disproportionate."

## Support



The campaign that supported the amendment was led by Fair Districts for Ohio.<sup>[12]</sup>

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Matt Huffman (R-4), who also co-chairs Fair Districts for Ohio with Rep. Vernon Sykes (D-34).

## Supporters

- Ohio Republican Party<sup>[13]</sup>
- League of Women Voters of Ohio<sup>[14]</sup>
- Common Cause Ohio<sup>[15]</sup>
- Ohio Democratic Party<sup>[16]</sup>
- Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted<sup>[17]</sup>
- Ohio Consumer Lenders Association<sup>[18]</sup>
- A. Philip Randolph Institute
- AAUW of Ohio
- ACLU Ohio
- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 697
- America Votes
- Applied Information Resources
- Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio
- Buckeye Forest Council
- Butler County Democratic Party
- CASE Ohio
- Catholic Bishops of Ohio
- Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
- Clermont County Democratic Party
- Cleveland Partnership
- Clintonville for Change
- Coalition of Democratic and Progressive Organizations of Central Ohio
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
- College Democrats at Ohio State
- College Democrats of Ohio
- Columbus Chapter Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta
- Communications Workers of America District 4
- County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Delaware County Democratic Party
- Democratic Voices
- Erie County Democratic Party
- Equality Ohio
- Fair Elections Legal Network
- Faith for Common Good
- Faith in Public Life
- Food and Water Watch
- Franklin County Democratic Party
- Franklin County Democratic Women's Club
- Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio
- Geauga County Democratic Party
- Independent Lines Advocacy
- Innovation Ohio
- Lakewood Democratic Club
- League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County
- League of Women Voters of the



- Cincinnati Area
- League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland
- League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Rocky River Chapter
- League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Shaker Heights Chapter
- League of Women Voters of Kent
- League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus
- Lucas County Democratic Party
- Miami Voter Protection Coalition
- Mom's Clean Air Force of Ohio
- NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio
- Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope
- Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
- Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates
- Nuns on the Bus Ohio
- Ohio AFL-CIO
- Ohio Agri Business Association
- Ohio Association of REALTORS
- Ohio Cattlemen's Association
- Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
- Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
- Ohio Council of Churches
- Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
- Ohio County Commissioners Association
- Ohio Democratic County Chairs Association
- Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Environmental Council
- Ohio Farm Bureau
- Ohio Farmers Union
- Ohio Green Party
- Ohio Legislative Black Caucus
- Ohio Manufacturers' Association
- Ohio Organizing Collaborative
- Ohio Progressive Army
- Ohio Progressive Talk
- Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Ohio Society of CPA's
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio State Medical Association's Political Action Committee (OSMAPAC)
- Ohio Student Association
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Unity Coalition
- Ohio University College Democrats
- Ohio Voice
- Ohio Voter Fund
- Ohio Voter Rights Coalition
- One Ohio Now
- Ottawa County Democrats
- ProgressOhio
- Region V of the Black

- |                                       |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Trade Unionists                       | Progressive Democrats                           | • Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio          | • Woman's City Club of Greater Cleveland |
| • Richland County Democratic Party    | • Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce           | • Upper Arlington Progressive Action           | • Wood County Board of Commissioners     |
| • Sandusky County Democratic Party    | • United Auto Workers Region 2B                 | • URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity | • Wood County Democratic party           |
| • Shelby Area Democratic Club         | • United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75   | • Warren County Democratic Party               | • Worthington Area Democratic Club       |
| • Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio | • United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1059 | • Westerville Progressive Alliance             | • Youngstown Chamber of Commerce         |
| • Summit County                       |   |  |  |

## Arguments in favor



Rep. Matt Huffman

Rep. Matt Huffman stated:<sup>[8]</sup>

“ I don't know ultimately that the maps that we'll see at first glance... will look different, but they will be, in fact, be the product of a much better process, a much clearer process, and one that I think the public will be able to follow and understand.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

Ann Henkener of the League of Women Voters of Ohio argued:<sup>[19]</sup>

“ When our current gerrymandered district map took effect, we heard from many voters who were upset or confused by their communities being split into different districts. This proposal requires map-makers to keep cities and counties together rather than splitting them up. This should help voters understand who their representative is because the boundaries will make more sense.<sup>[4]</sup> ”



Rep. Mike Curtin

Rep. Mike Curtin (D-17) said:<sup>[20]</sup>

“ In this historic moment, we have the chance to take a badly gerrymandered state and make it right.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

Curt Steiner, CEO of Steiner Public Relations in Columbus, Ohio, said:<sup>[20]</sup>

“ The provisions in Issue 1 are long overdue,” Steiner said. “The system we have now is inherently partisan, with one party controlling the outcomes. ... If this passes, the result will be legislative districts that are more competitive and fair. It won’t be perfect. Perfect isn’t possible. A number of districts still will be lopsided, but there will be noticeable improvement overall.<sup>[4]</sup> ”



Rep. John Rogers

Rep. John Rogers (D-60) stated:<sup>[20]</sup>

“ This issue recognizes a problem created in drawing the districts and addresses that problem. In competitive districts, all voices are heard.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

Pat Crowley, an Ohio Consumer Lenders Association spokesman, said:<sup>[18]</sup>

“ The Issue 1 reform process is strongly supported by both Republicans and Democrats; it creates a much fairer way to draw districts and elect representation for the Ohio Legislature. We support the concept of having better balanced representation in the General Assembly.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor said:<sup>[21]</sup>

“ Thanks to bipartisan support and strong leadership, voters have an opportunity to strengthen Ohio’s redistricting process this November by supporting State Issue 1.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

The League of Women Voters of Ohio said in a release:<sup>[22]</sup>

“ LWVO’s board voted earlier this year to formally endorse the Fair Districts for Ohio redistricting reform proposal that will appear as Issue 1 on the November 2015 ballot. The group has been a staunch supporter of the need for redistricting reform in Ohio and have been advocating for such reform for the last 40 years. They said they are pleased the Ohio General Assembly came together to approve a bipartisan measure to improve how the state draws legislative districts and support its approval by the voters.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

## Campaign contributions

Supporters of Issue 1 had raised over \$270,000 as of October 28, 2015.<sup>[23]</sup>

### Committee information:

Committee	Amount raised	Amount spent
Fair Districts for Ohio	\$279,441	\$183,924.83
Total	\$279,441	\$183,924.83

Donors who contributed \$15,000 or more to the campaign include:

### Top contributors:

Donor	Amount
The Wholesale Beer & Wine Association of Ohio	\$50,000

Ohio Education Association PCEE	\$25,000
Ohio Education Association	\$25,000
Political Education Patterns	\$15,000

## Opposition

### Arguments against

The Ohio Secretary of State released official arguments for and against the issue, with the following arguments against:<sup>[24]</sup>

“ The current process for drawing new legislative districts is adequate and has served Ohio well for many years. The gerrymandering that resulted from partisan control is not a bad process, because it leads to one-party control over government and voters can know who to hold responsible. Competitive districts are not a virtue, because politicians have to spend so much time campaigning for reelection and are not able to do as much legislative work.

Even when the apportionment board is controlled by a single party, it is still representative of the people's will since the members of the board, most of whom are statewide officials, were elected by popular vote. The board has been controlled exclusively by both of the major parties, so neither side of the political spectrum can be seen as having a long-term hold on redistricting. Historically, their control doesn't last forever.

The current process can be trusted to maintain fair district lines; a "no" vote maintains the status quo.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

## Media editorials

### Support

The *Akron Beacon Journal* editorial board wrote:<sup>[25]</sup>

“ All that should not obscure the strong likelihood that the amendment would create powerful incentives for bipartisan compromise on the creation of compact, competitive Ohio House and Senate districts. In the long run, legislators from safe districts become insulated from many voters, their attention focused on winning primary elections that draw hard-core partisans.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

The *The Columbus Dispatch* editorial board said:<sup>[26]</sup>

“ Districts that overwhelmingly favor one party or the other don’t only disenfranchise minority-party voters; they lead to lousy legislatures. Elections effectively are decided in the partisan primary, by candidates who know they’ll have no need to appeal to voters of the opposite party. This tends to stock the Statehouse not with thoughtful problem-solvers but ideologues. Issue 1 could change that, by creating districts in which candidates have to earn votes by appealing to a broader spectrum of voters, rather than competing to outpander partisan rivals.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* editorial board argued:<sup>[27]</sup>

“ It would be naive to think all politics will or even can be removed from the process, but Issue 1 is a major improvement. For too long, the party in power in Ohio – whichever party it happened to be – has taken advantage of the once-a-decade redistricting to draw the lines to its maximum benefit. Let’s make sure 2021 is different. Vote for Issue 1 on Nov. 3 to reform the process and so we can turn our attention to the other half of the gerrymandering problem: how Ohio’s congressional lines are drawn.<sup>[4]</sup> ”

## Oppose

Ballotpedia has not yet found media editorials opposing the measure. If you are aware of an editorial, please email it to [editor@ballotpedia.org](mailto:editor@ballotpedia.org).

## Polls

The University of Akron Buckeye Poll below conducted between September and October 2015 found that 55 percent of registered voters were generally supportive of Issue 1, 16 percent opposed the issue and 29 percent were undecided.

Ohio Issue 1 Poll	[hide]

Poll	Favor	"Good Idea"	Undecided	"Bad Idea"	Oppose	Margin of error	Sample size
University of Akron Buckeye Poll 9/1/2015 - 10/1/2015	11%	44%	29%	11%	5%	+/-3	1,074
<i>Note: The polls above may not reflect all polls that have been conducted in this race. Those displayed are a random sampling chosen by Ballotpedia staff. If you would like to nominate another poll for inclusion in the table, send an email to <a href="mailto:editor@ballotpedia.org">editor@ballotpedia.org</a>.</i>							

A Bowling Green State University poll found that 54 percent of voters supported the measure.

Ohio Issue 1 Poll (Bowling Green State University)						[hide]
Poll	Support	Oppose	Undecided	Margin of error	Sample size	
Bowling Green State University Poll October 16-17, 2015	54%	13.9%	32.2%	+/-3.5	782	
<i>Note: The polls above may not reflect all polls that have been conducted in this race. Those displayed are a random sampling chosen by Ballotpedia staff. If you would like to nominate another poll for inclusion in the table, send an email to <a href="mailto:editor@ballotpedia.org">editor@ballotpedia.org</a>.</i>						

## Path to the ballot


*See also: Amending the Ohio Constitution*

According to Article XVI of the Ohio Constitution, a 60 percent vote in both chambers of the legislature is required in order to place a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on a ballot.

The Ohio Senate approved the final version of HJR 12 on December 11, 2014, with 28 senators voting in favor and one against. The Ohio House of Representatives approved the final version of HJR 12 on December 17, 2014, with 82 representatives voting in favor and eight against.<sup>[28]</sup>

### Senate vote

December 11, 2014, Senate vote

Ohio HJR 12 Senate Vote		
Result	Votes	Percentage
 Yes	28	96.55%

No	1	3.45%
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Ohio HJR 12 House Vote		
Result	Votes	Percentage
✔ Yes	82	91.11%
No	8	8.89%

## House vote

December 17, 2014, House vote

## Votes against

Between the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate, a total of nine legislators voted against referring the amendment to the ballot. These legislators were:<sup>[28]</sup>

- Sen. Bill Seitz (R-8)
- Rep. John Becker (R-65)
- Rep. Ron Hood (R-78)
- Rep. Bill Patmon (D-10)
- Rep. Wes Retherford (R-51)
- Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-37)
- Rep. Andrew Thompson (R-95)
- Former Rep. John Adams (R-85)
- Former Rep. Matt Lynch (R-76)

## State profile



## Presidential voting pattern

*See also: Presidential voting trends in Ohio*

### Demographic data for Ohio

	Ohio	U.S.
Total population:	11,605,090	316,515,021
Land area (sq mi):	40,861	3,531,905
<i>Race and ethnicity**</i>		
White:	82.4%	73.6%
Black/African American:	12.2%	12.6%



Ohio voted Republican in four out of the six presidential elections between 2000 and 2020.

### Pivot Counties (2016)

Ballotpedia identified 206 counties that voted for Donald Trump (R) in 2016 after voting for Barack Obama (D) in 2008 and 2012. Collectively, Trump won these Pivot Counties by more than 580,000 votes. Of these 206 counties, nine are located in Ohio, accounting for 4.37 percent of the total pivot counties.<sup>[29]</sup>

Asian:	1.9%	5.1%
Native American:	0.2%	0.8%
Pacific Islander:	0%	0.2%
Two or more:	2.5%	3%
Hispanic/Latino:	3.4%	17.1%

#### Education

High school graduation rate:	89.1%	86.7%
College graduation rate:	26.1%	29.8%

#### Income

Median household income:	\$49,429	\$53,889
Persons below poverty level:	19.6%	11.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "American Community Survey" (5-year estimates 2010-2015)

[Click here for more information on the 2020 census](#) and [here for more on its impact on the redistricting process in Ohio.](#)

*\*\*Note: Percentages for race and ethnicity may add up to more than 100 percent because respondents may report more than one race and the Hispanic/Latino ethnicity may be selected in conjunction with any race. Read more about race and ethnicity in the census here.*

### Pivot Counties (2020)

In 2020, Ballotpedia re-examined the 206 Pivot Counties to view their voting patterns following that year's presidential election. Ballotpedia defined those won by Trump as *Retained Pivot Counties* and those won by Joe Biden (D) as *Boomerang Pivot Counties*. Nationwide, there were 181 Retained Pivot Counties and 25 Boomerang Pivot Counties. Ohio had eight Retained Pivot Counties and one Boomerang Pivot County, accounting for 4.42 and 4.00 percent of all Retained and Boomerang Pivot Counties, respectively.

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## See also

- 2015 ballot measures
- Ohio 2015 ballot measures
- Ohio Legislature
- Redistricting in Ohio

**BP** Suggest a link

## External links

### Basic information

- House Joint Resolution 12
- State Issues Report - General Election - November 3, 2015
- The League of Women Voters of Ohio Voters' Guide 2015

### Support

- Fair Districts for Ohio
- Fair Districts for Ohio Facebook
- Fair Districts for Ohio Twitter

## Additional reading

- *The Columbus Dispatch*, "Redistricting plan awaits Ohio voters," December 18, 2014

## Footnotes

1. *Ohio Secretary of State*, "House Joint Resolution Number 12," accessed April 21, 2015
2. *Ohio Legislative Service Commission* HJR 12 Final Analysis," accessed April 21, 2015
3. *Ohio Secretary of State*, "Issue 1," accessed August 19, 2015
4. *Note: This text is quoted verbatim from the original source. Any inconsistencies are attributable to the original source.*

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