

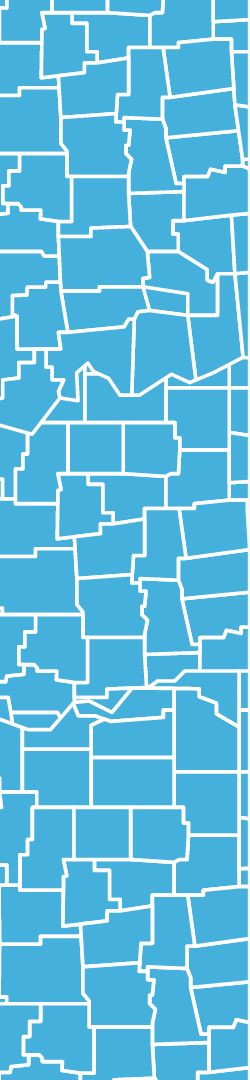


REDISTRICTING 2025:



US HOUSE MAP





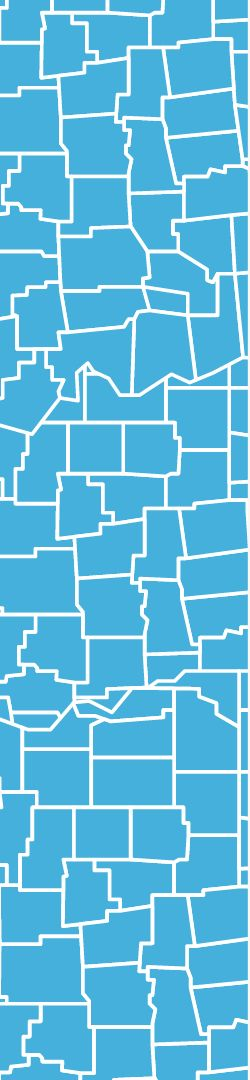
WHO WE ARE

Fair Districts Ohio is a coalition of the Buckeye state's leading nonpartisan redistricting advocates and experts.

We are led by the **League of Women Voters of Ohio & Common Cause Ohio.**

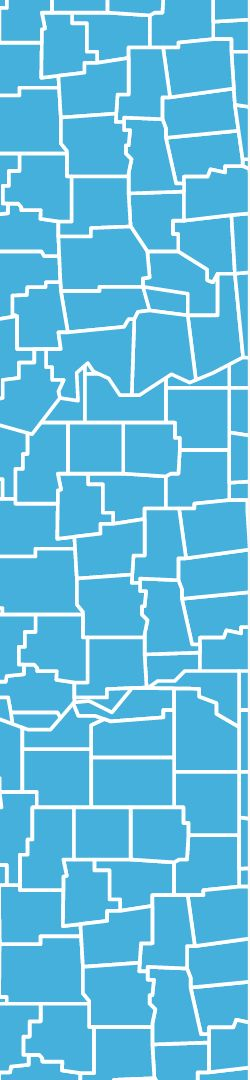
Our coalition includes: Ohio Council of Churches, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, We Are Ohio, ACLU Ohio, and others





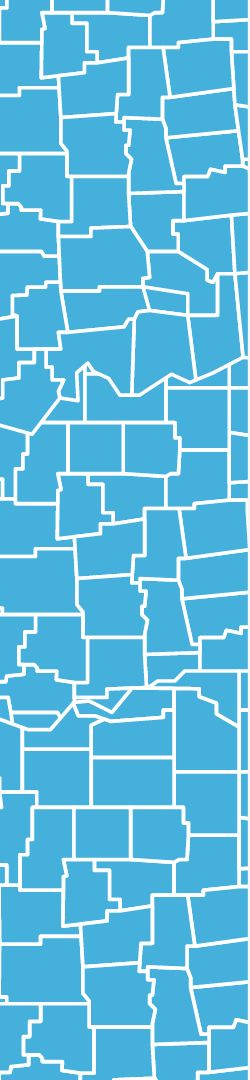
AGENDA

- What is redistricting?
- What is gerrymandering?
- What's so bad about gerrymandering, anyway?
- Didn't we already try to fix this?!
- What happened with Issue 1 last year?
- Brief history of 2021/2022 Ohio redistricting
- What's happening in Ohio?
- How bad is our current map?
- Ways to take action and some resources



WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

And what is it for?



REDISTRICTING:

Process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral districts to reflect changes in population.

- **WHEN:** Every 10 years, after the US Census
- **WHAT DISTRICTS:** Ohio has 3 sets of maps: Congressional, State Senate, and State House
- **HOW:** Differs state by state, but usually done in the state legislature
- **IN OHIO:** Bipartisan commission of elected officials or General Assembly, depending on several constitutional factors

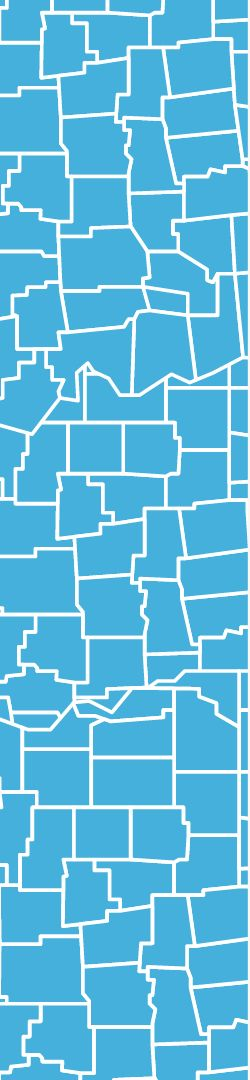
MAIN GOAL OF REDISTRICTING:

To maintain districts that are equal in population so the votes in each district have the same power

PROBLEM: GERRYMANDERING

When electoral districts are rigged to give an unfair advantage to political parties in power or incumbent politicians



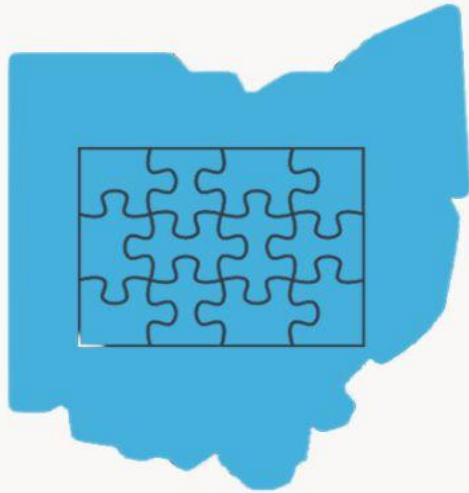


WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

And how does it work? How can you tell?

GERRYMANDERING

The practice of dividing or arranging a territory in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage.

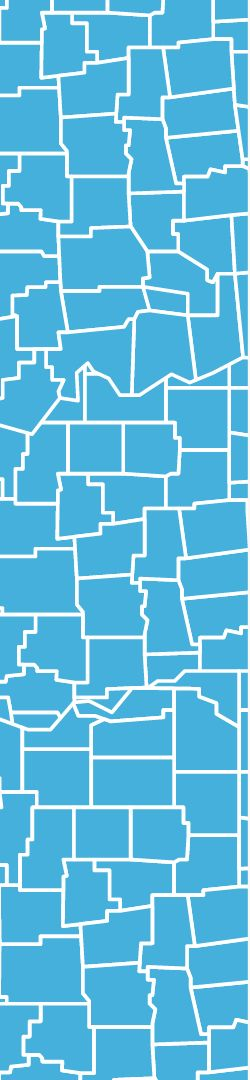


Map-rigger Trick #1

Twist the definition of the word "gerrymander"

MAIN GOAL OF GERRYMANDERING

To manipulate district lines in ways that advantage certain political groups, maximizing the impact of voters that align with the party in power and incumbent politicians, and minimizing the impact of voters who don't



GERRYMANDERING MAKES A POLITICAL PARTY – OR INCUMBENT MORE POWERFUL THAN POPULAR

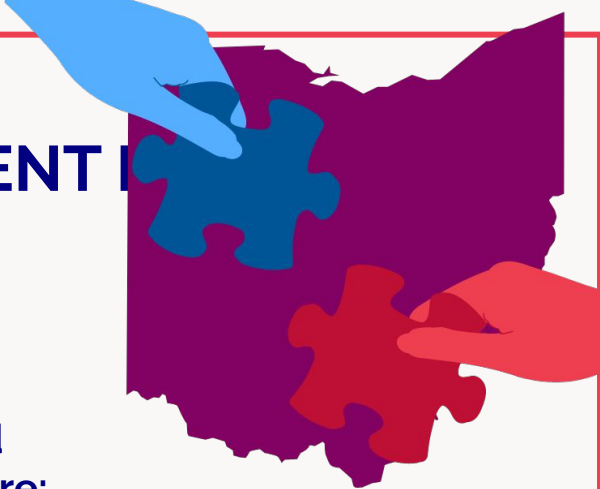
When electoral districts for the state legislature and US House are gerrymandered, some votes count more:

- Voters who support the party in power
- Voters who support Incumbent politicians

And some votes count less:

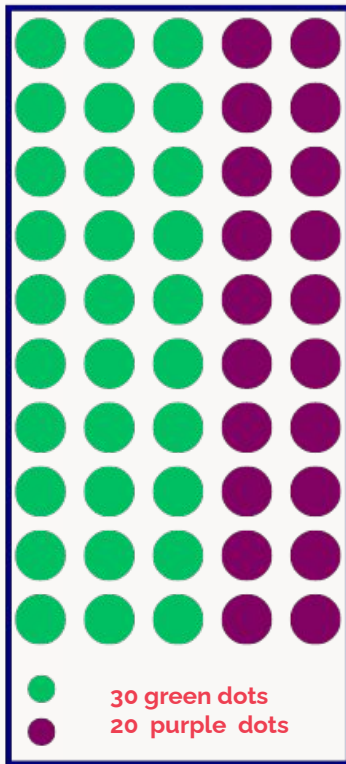
- Voters who oppose the party in power
- Voters in minority groups

The more gerrymandered a state is, the more likely this is to be true, and Ohio is one of the **MOST GERRYMANDERED STATES IN THE US**

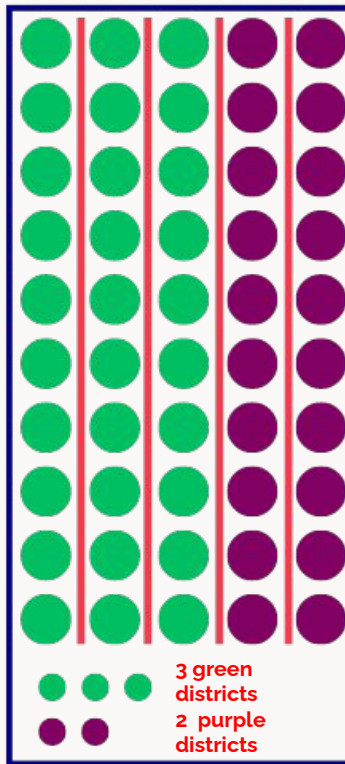


HOW GERRYMANDERING WORKS

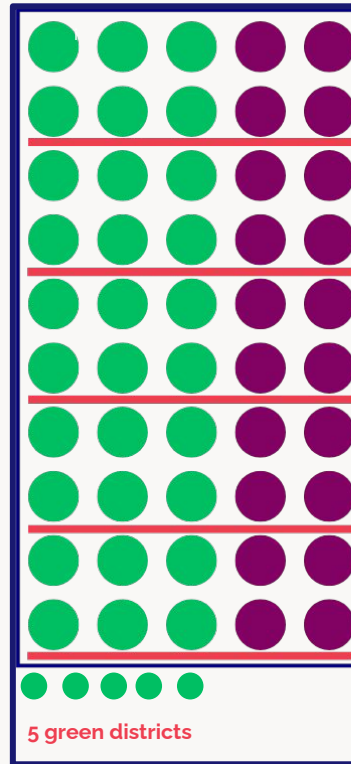
Population



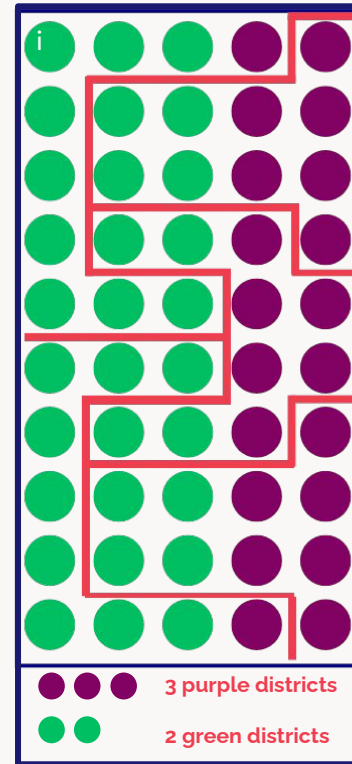
Fair Representation

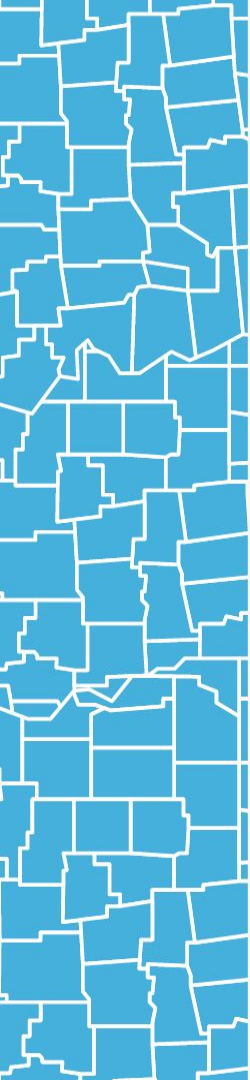


Cracked District



Packed District

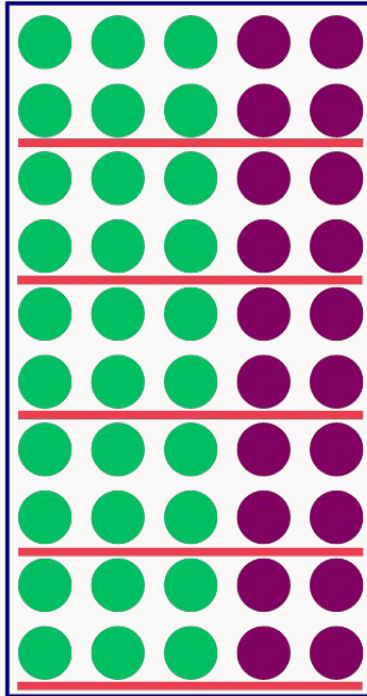




CRACKING



Splitting up some groups
to dilute their voting power



Map-rigger Trick #2

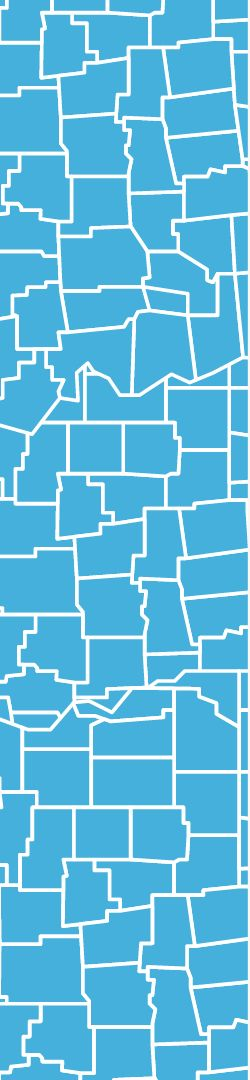
Claim that a
fair map is harder
to draw.

PACKING



Concentrating some groups
into one district to contain their influence





LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

- THE **NUMBER OF VOTES** A PARTY RECEIVES
- THE **NUMBER OF SEATS** THEY HOLD

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

PRES. TRUMP WON

- **53% OF THE VOTE IN 2020**
- **55% OF THE VOTE IN 2024**

US HOUSE

- **10 REPUBLICAN SEATS (66.7%)**
- **5 DEMOCRATIC SEATS (33.3%)**

In Ohio, the Majority party– Republican– holds almost **12% more seats** than the percentage of votes they earned

THAT'S GERRYMANDERING!



Map-rigger Trick #3

Try to define fair representation as a measure of the number of elections won versus the number of votes cast.

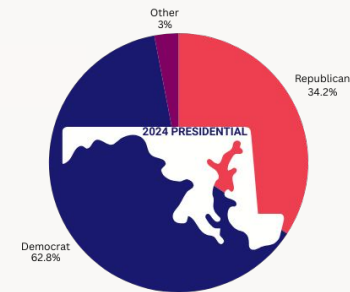
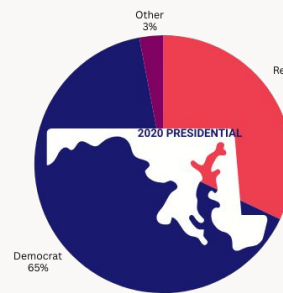
GERRYMANDERING IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

- WHOEVER HAS POWER WANTS TO KEEP IT

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

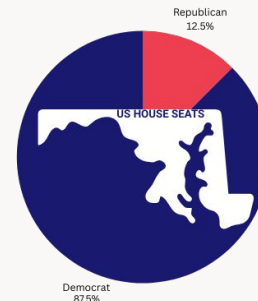
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES WON

- 65% OF THE VOTE IN 2020
- 62.8% OF THE VOTE IN 2024



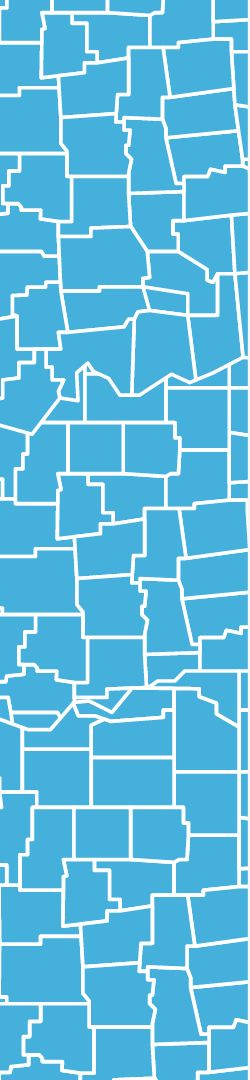
US HOUSE

- 7 DEMOCRATIC SEATS (87.5%)
- 1 REPUBLICAN SEAT (12.5%)



In Maryland, the majority party- Democratic- hold almost 25% more seats than their votes earned

BOTH PARTIES GERRYMANDER



WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT GERRYMANDERING, ANYWAY?

And how does it impact me?

GERRYMANDERED DISTRICTS LET REPRESENTATIVES PICK THEIR VOTERS

- instead of voters picking their representatives



GERRYMANDERING MEANS POLITICIANS CAN'T BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

- even when they go against the will of the people



GERRYMANDERING LOWERS VOTER PARTICIPATION

- voters lose faith in the system when they feel like their vote doesn't matter



GERRYMANDERING STEALS VOTER POWER

- rigged districts dilute the power of groups who oppose the party and politicians in power



GERRYMANDERING STANDS IN THE WAY

of every policy issue that impacts your community

- When politicians pick their voters, they don't have to listen to you because they know their seat is safe
- Even when we agree with most of what our rep says, politicians with safe seats don't need us so they don't need to actually solve problems



DEVELOPMENT



CLEAN AIR



SCHOOLS



TAXES



PUBLIC SAFETY

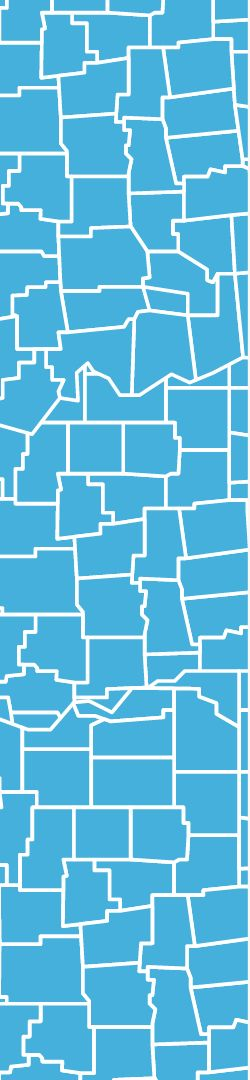


HEALTHCARE

The attention these issues get – or *don't* get – isn't up to you, the voter

- Politicians who aren't accountable to you are accountable to someone else – their party, their donors, their base, and their lobbyist friends

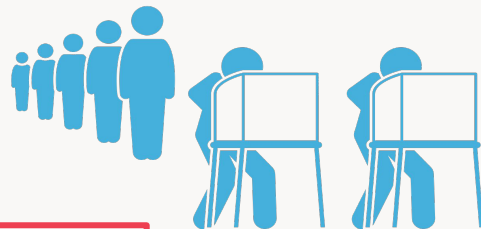
Democracy can't work like that



**DIDN'T WE
ALREADY TRY
TO FIX THIS!?**

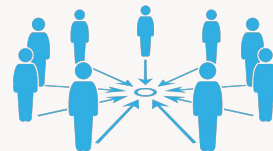
Why is redistricting still so controversial?

OHIOANS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT FAIR DISTRICTS!



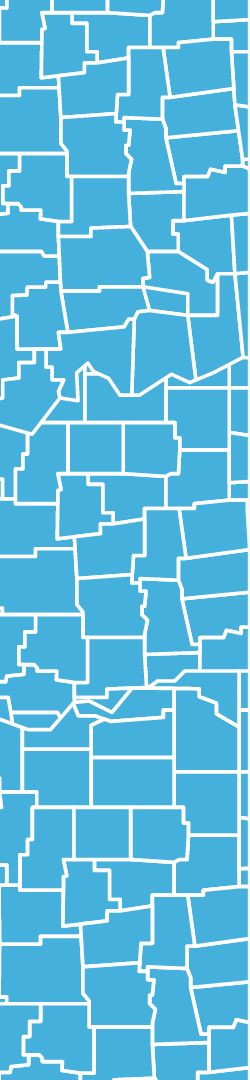
WE VOTED TWICE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM

- **Voters passed amendments to end gerrymandering in 2015 & 2018:** Both amendments passed by more than 70%
- **Ohioans across the political spectrum voted for reform:** these amendments were supported by Republican, Democratic, Independent, and unaffiliated voters
- **The process was different but the players were the same:** Politicians can't resist the temptation to draw maps they benefit from



Unfortunately, in 2021 & 2022, the first time the amendments were put to the test, THE POLITICIAN MAP-MAKERS DID NOT FOLLOW THE LAW AND DREW GERRYMANDERED DISTRICTS.





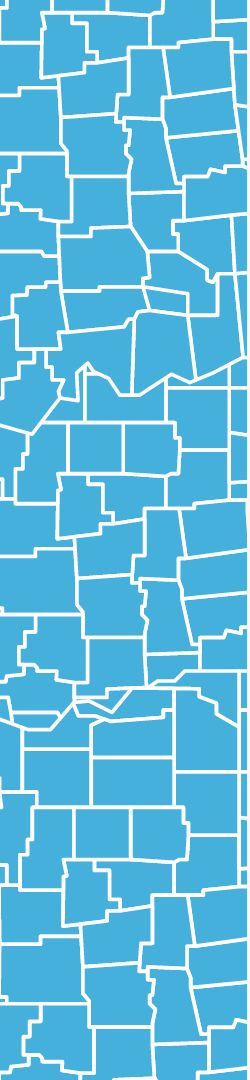
VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF 2021/2022 REDISTRICTING

This doesn't begin to cover it

LONG STORY SHORT: IT WAS A MESS

- **9/16/21:** Ohio Redistricting Commission adopts first set of maps
- **1/12/22:** Ohio Supreme Court invalidates the first set of maps
- **1/22/22:** Ohio Redistricting Commission adopts a second set of maps
- **2/7/22:** Ohio Supreme Court invalidates second set of maps
- **2/17/22:** Ohio Redistricting Commission fails to meet deadline
- **2/24/22:** Ohio Redistricting Commission adopts a third set of maps
- **3/16/22:** Ohio Supreme Court invalidates the third set of maps
- **3/18/22:** A federal court appoints a three-judge panel
- **3/23/22** - Ohio House, Ohio Senate races were removed from the 5/3 primary ballot
- **3/28/22:** Ohio Redistricting Commission adopts the fourth set of maps
- **4/14/22:** Ohio Supreme Court invalidates the fourth set of maps
- **4/20/22:** Federal court sets deadline for intervention
- **5/5/22:** Ohio Redistricting Commission resubmits rejected maps
- **5/25/22:** Ohio Supreme Court rejects proposed Statehouse maps for the fifth time
- **5/27/22:** Federal court intervenes in Ohio redistricting, orders state to implement unconstitutional district maps



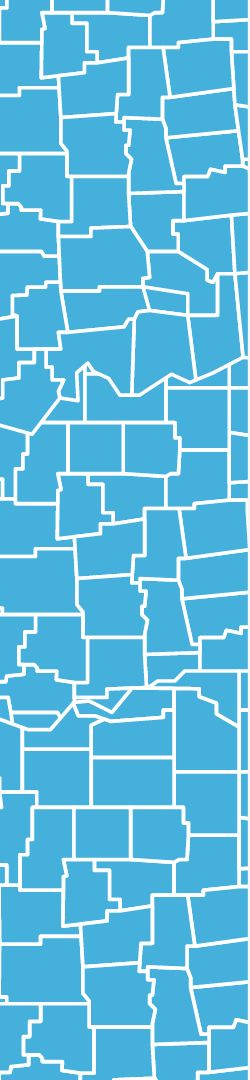


**THE OHIO CONSTITUTION
REQUIRES A MID-CYCLE
REDRAWING WHEN
PASSED IN THE BEGINNING
THE CYCLE ISN'T FOR
A BIPARTISAN VOTE**

Map-rigger Trick #4

Imply that because the word "Fairness" isn't in the Ohio Constitution, maps don't need to be fair.

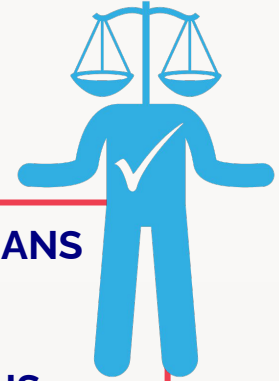
**OHIO IS THE ONLY STATE CONSTITUTION
REQUIRED TO REDISTRICT THIS YEAR**



WHAT HAPPENED WITH ISSUE 1 LAST YEAR?

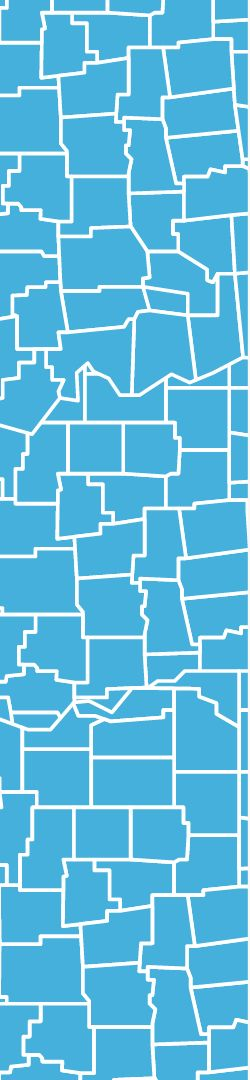
It's not a pretty story

OHIOANS HAD THE CHANCE TO HAVE REAL REDISTRICTING REFORM IN 2024



- 2024's ISSUE 1, AKA THE PROPOSED CITIZEN'S NOT POLITICIANS AMENDMENT, WOULD HAVE CREATED AN INDEPENDENT, 15-MEMBER OHIO CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
- IT WOULD HAVE BANNED CURRENT OR FORMER POLITICIANS, POLITICAL PARTY OFFICIALS, & LOBBYISTS FROM SITTING ON THE COMMISSION
- & REQUIRED FAIR & IMPARTIAL DISTRICTS BY MAKING IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL TO DRAW VOTING DISTRICTS THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OR FAVOR ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR INDIVIDUAL POLITICIAN

**BUT THE POLITICIANS WITH THE MOST TO LOSE IF
ISSUE 1 PASSED CHEATED OHIO VOTERS**



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OHIO?

Ohio is special



OHIO'S REDISTRICTING TIMELINE

Map-rigger Trick #5

Pretend that the word
“shall” in the Ohio
Constitution means “you
can if you want to but it’s
optional.”

Map-rigger Trick #6

Pretend that
negotiations on maps
need to happen in
secret.

November 30, 2025: Deadline for Ohio General Assembly to pass map

- **The map can pass with a simple majority:** But the rules for the map are stricter

RIGHT NOW IN OHIO'S REDISTRICTING

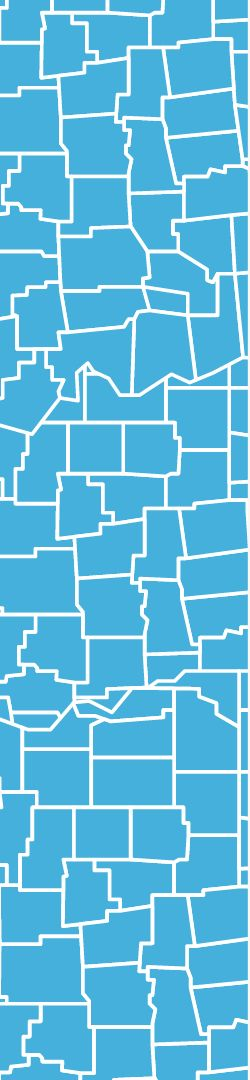
Map-rigger Trick #7

Not produce a map of their own and force those testifying to comment on maps that will never be adopted.

Map-rigger Trick #8

Run out the clock: introduce maps at the last minute so there is no time for meaningful public input.





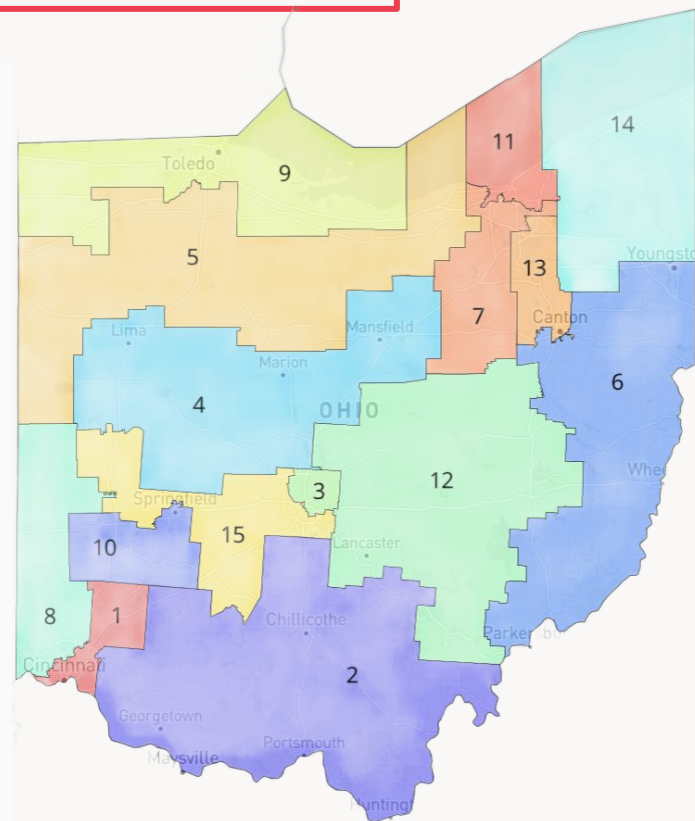
MAPPING CRITERIA

Adherence to all applicable state, federal, & constitutional law

- **Constitutional:**
 - Equal Population
- **Federal:**
 - Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 -> no denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. -> No cracking or packing.
- **State:**
 - Compact: neat, even shape
 - Contiguous
 - Preserve political boundaries:
 - Keep cities whole as much as possible
 - 65 counties must be kept whole, 18 counties can be split once, and 5 counties cannot be split more than twice
 - As much as possible, at least one whole county should be included in each congressional district

CURRENT MAP OVERVIEW

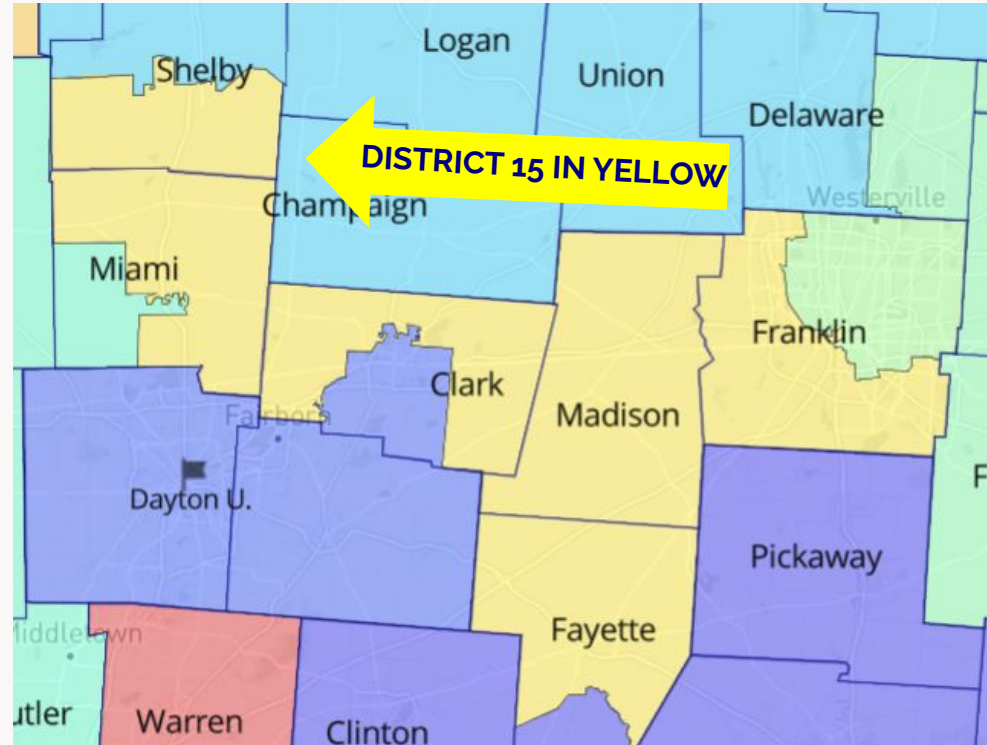
Ratings: Copy of OH 2022 Congressional (March 2, 2022)



DISTRICT 15

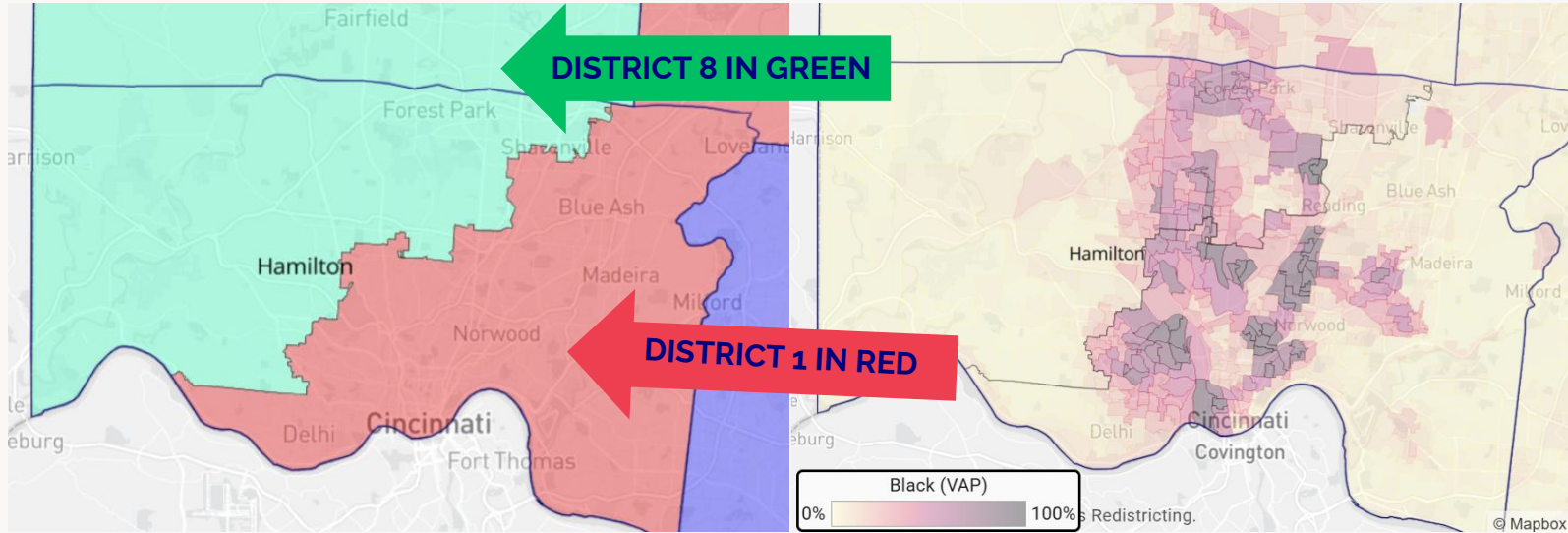
Urban/Suburban

- **Franklin County** is **combined** with rural, agricultural areas like **Shelby County**.
- While Columbus needs to be split, current map unnecessarily divides urban/suburban Black communities in and loops them in with white, rural areas far away.



District 15 is represented in yellow.

DISTRICTS 8 + 1



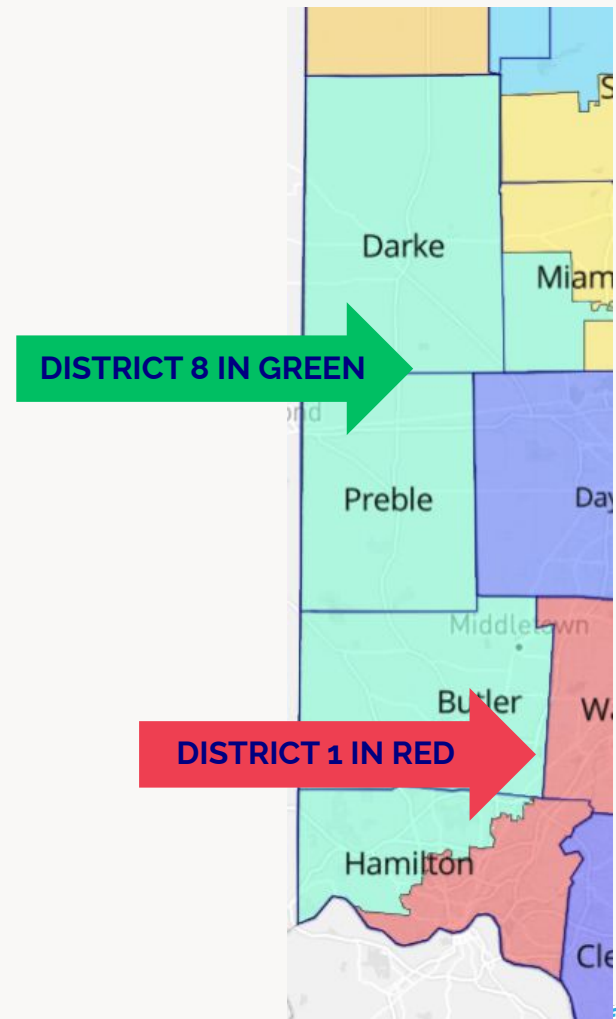
Unnecessarily splits Black communities in suburban Cincinnati.

District 8 is represented in green; District 1 in red.

DISTRICTS 8 + 1

**Combines suburban
Black areas with
white, rural counties
far away like Darke
County.**

District 8 is represented in green; District 1 in red.

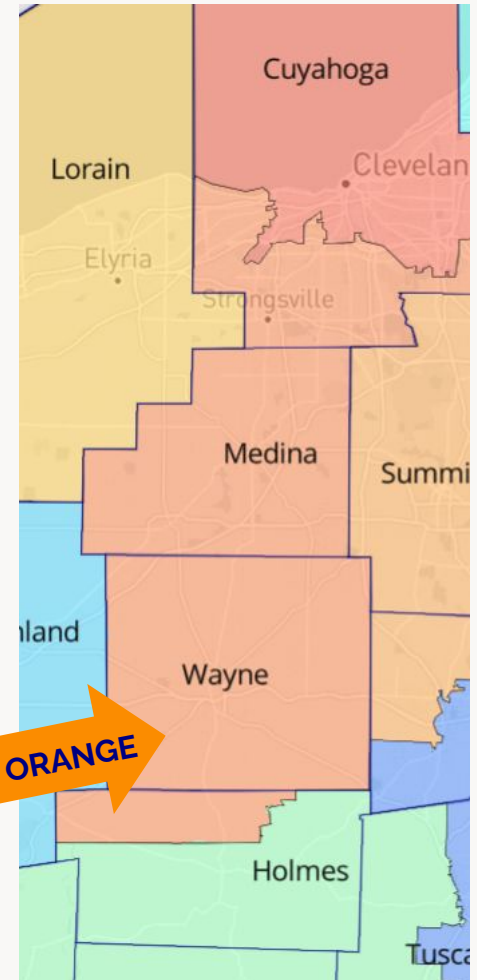


DISTRICT 7

Combines suburban areas outside Cleveland with rural areas in Wayne and Holmes counties.

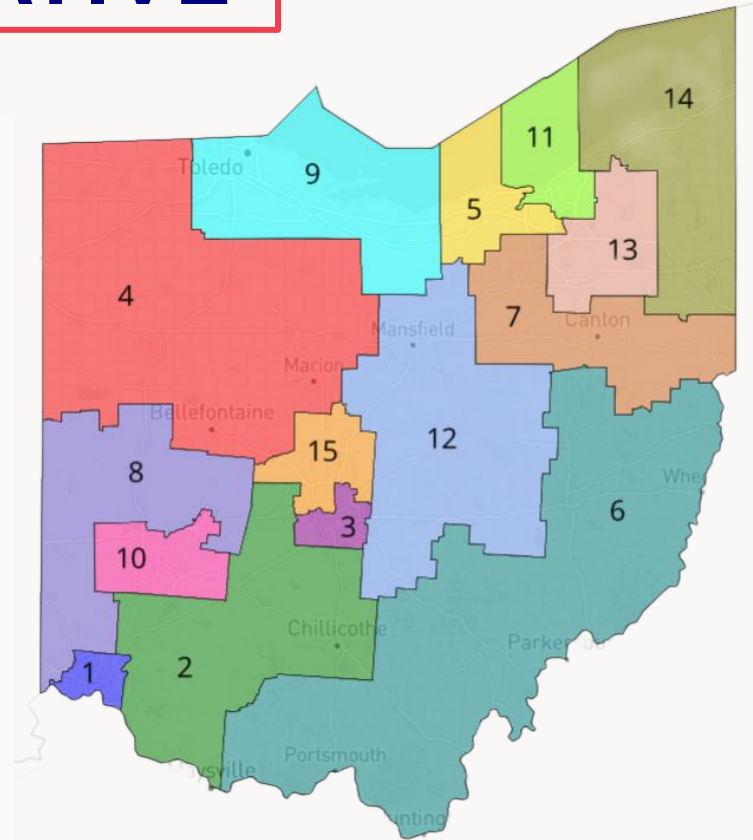
District 7 is represented in orange.

DISTRICT 7 IN ORANGE



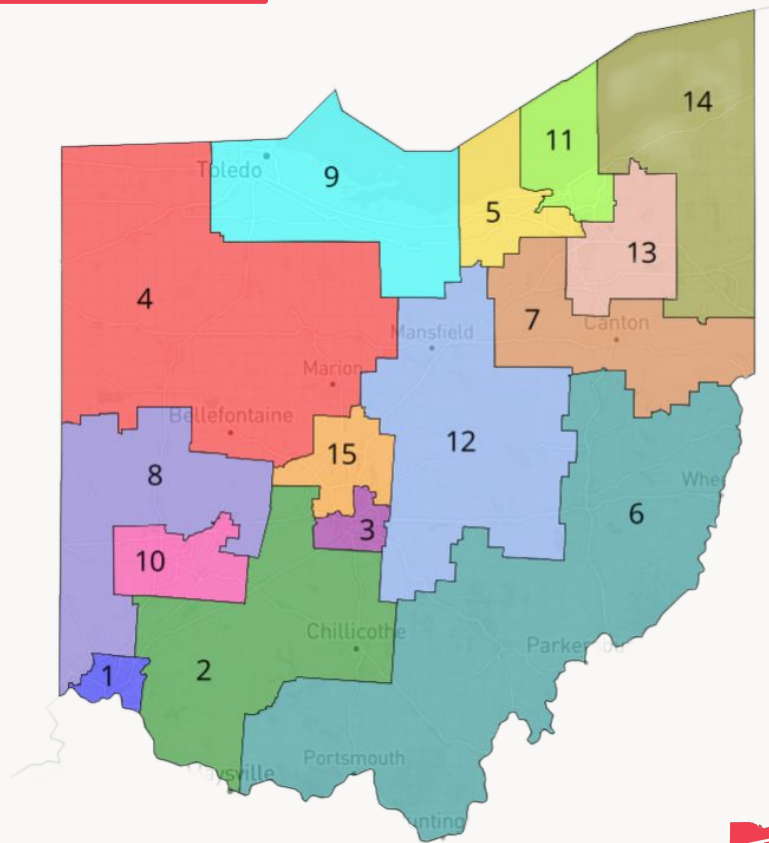
SAMPLE ALTERNATIVE

Ratings: Copy of John Hagner: Congressional Map



**2021 Fair Districts
Congressional Mapmaking
Competition** - 1st Place Winner:
John Hagner

- **Balances all legal requirements while respecting communities of interest.**
- **State County Requirement & COIs:**
CD 1 keeps communities of color together while staying wholly contained in their county.



HOW TO FOLLOW THE PROCESS

- To follow the Ohio Redistricting Commission's work, visit redistricting.ohio.gov.
- To follow the state legislative mapmaking, visit redistricting.legislature.ohio.gov
- Check out proposed congressional maps, on Dave's Redistricting App at davesredistricting.org
- Public hearings are streamed and archived online at OhioChannel.org



bit.ly/AlltheCongressionalMaps

Go to Column Q

JOIN THE WHERE'S THE MAP GOOD TROUBLE BRIGADE!

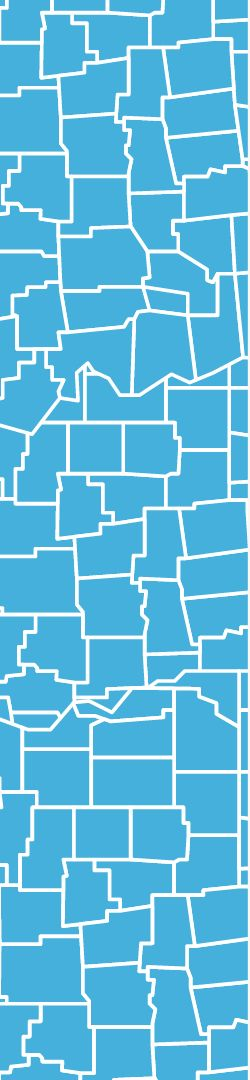
- Hang around the Statehouse and ask, "Where's the map?"
- T-shirts, buttons, rally signs
- Attend hearings
- Testify
- Letters to the editor
- Spread on social media
- **Sign Up Form**





TO SUPPORT FAIR MAPS IN OHIO

- **Submit testimony:** Advocate for good maps, tell the story of how bad maps impact you & your community
- **Show them we're paying attention:** Call, email, rally, protest
- **Use your platforms for education:** About the existing rules in the Ohio Constitution, how gerrymandering impacts people & communities
- **Share Fair Districts' content:** Social media, press, tool kits, talking points
- **Stay in touch:** Sign up to get our email updates
- **Donate** to Common Cause Ohio or League of Women Voters of Ohio so we can keep fighting for fair maps



GETTING READY TO TESTIFY

- The Ohio Redistricting Commission's first meeting is on Tuesday, October 21 at 9am.
- [Sign up for notifications](#)
- If you want to testify, you will need to submit written testimony to the Commission on their website: redistricting.ohio.gov/meetings
- The Commission may only provide five minutes for testifying. Don't be surprised if there is a clock on the podium. The Chair may encourage you to wrap up if you go over the time they have allotted.
- [Background and tips for testifying](#) before the Ohio Redistricting Commission: bit.ly/Tips4Testimony
- Please reach out if you have questions: fairdistrictsohio2021@gmail.com

WHAT ABOUT A REFERENDUM?

- At least 6% of the last gubernatorial vote 248,092
- 3% of the last gubernatorial vote from 44/88 counties
- The petitions must be filed with the Secretary of State within 90 days after the law or the new districts is filed with the Secretary of State by the Governor.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Bowling Green:** Thursday, 10/23, 6-7:30pm. [Register.](#)
 - Wood County Public Library, 251 North Main Street, Bowling Green, 43402.
- **Dayton:** Tuesday, 10/28, 6-7:30pm. [Register.](#)
 - IBEW Hall in Dayton: 6550 Poe Ave, Dayton, 45414.
- **Kent:** Thursday, 10/30, 6-7:30pm. [Register.](#)
 - United Methodist Church of Kent, 1435 E. Main St., Kent, 44240

