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Fair Districts Ohio Opposes Redistricting Overreach

This year Ohio maps will be drawn with new rules and a new redistricting process for state legislative and congressional map-making. In February, [the Census Bureau announced](#) that the necessary detailed census information will be available to all states as late as September 30, much later than expected. On April 5, Fair Districts Ohio [sent a letter](#) to the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio Redistricting Commissioners asking to start the process, including hosting hearings to determine a new path forward given the updated Census timeline.

Instead of heeding calls for a collaborative, bipartisan, and transparent process, a proposal for a new Constitutional Amendment was crafted behind closed doors without any input from nonpartisan experts or advocates. The hastily-constructed proposal is a complete overreach, giving the Ohio General Assembly free reign to set a new timeline and circumvent the bipartisan redistricting reforms that were passed overwhelmingly by Ohio voters in 2015 and 2018.

Fair Districts Ohio issues the following statement:

“While we acknowledge that the delay in the decennial Census data puts a strain on all stakeholders, we call on lawmakers to oppose this proposed constitutional amendment that flies in the face of the letter and spirit of the 2015 and 2018 voter approved ballot initiatives. Ohioans want fair maps and a transparent, collaborative, and bipartisan mapmaking process. Unfortunately, this proposal was created without input from nonpartisan redistricting experts like the League of Women Voters of Ohio and Common Cause Ohio. By giving far too much power to Ohio lawmakers, the overly broad language could be used to cut the public completely out of the process and rig maps for extreme partisan outcomes. Instead, mapmakers should oppose this power grab and host public hearings immediately, so that we can work together to come up with the best plan for moving forward.”

About Fair Districts Ohio:

Fair Districts Ohio is led by the League of Women Voters of Ohio and Common Cause Ohio in partnership with ACLU Ohio, Ohio Council of Churches, A. Philip Randolph Institute, and other statewide and local organizations. Without the efforts of these nonpartisan voices, Ohio would not have adopted reforms to the map-drawing process in 2015 and 2018.

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