



## **Voting Rights Advocates Call on Ohio General Assembly and Ohio Redistricting Commission to Begin Map-Making Process in Light of New Census Schedule**

COLUMBUS- Today, Fair Districts Ohio - the leading nonpartisan voice for redistricting reform - [sent a letter](#) to Ohio mapmakers with specific recommendations to ensure transparent and fair mapmaking in light of adjusted delivery date for Census data.

“In 2015 and 2018, Ohio leaders worked with voter advocates to craft new redistricting processes that were overwhelmingly supported by Ohioans across the state,” said Jen Miller of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. “Now we must work together again to fulfill the promise of those reforms. Let’s start now by reworking timelines in light of the new Census schedule and hosting public hearings where experts and voters can speak to the need for fair maps.”

[Click here for the link to Fair Districts’ recommendations](#)

“Map-makers and the public need a clear game plan based on information from experts and the public. It’s time to start public hearings so that we can determine how to make the map-making process work best,” said Sam Gresham of Common Cause Ohio.

“In untenable circumstances such as this, it is reasonable and legally possible for a court to grant relief,” added Professor Jessie Hill, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development at Case Western School School of Law.

“Deciding how Ohio proceeds with the new redistricting timeline should be as transparent as possible to give Ohioans confidence in this historically secretive process. This is an opportunity for map-makers to show the people that their voices are heard and their votes matter. Redistricting needs to start now,” said Collin Marozzi of ACLU Ohio

### **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 many more. Without the efforts of these nonpartisan voices for redistricting reform, Ohio would not have adopted reforms to the map-drawing process in 2015 and 2018 without our efforts.

**Background About Census Data:** 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 detailed census information will be available to all states on September 30. The state of Ohio demanded that the Census Bureau provide needed data by the end of March. On March 23, [Census Acting Director Ron Jarmin told the US Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee](#) that detailed data necessary for map-making will be sent to states by September 30, and that the Census Bureau will provide less user-friendly “legacy data” in August. On March 24, [a federal judge rebuffed the state of Ohio’s lawsuit](#) to garner census data by March 31. The state almost immediately appealed. The 6th Circuit panel of Judges Martha Craig Daughtrey, David McKeague & Amul Thapar will hear the appeal and a ruling is not expected until mid-April at the earliest.

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