

August 20, 2011

To: State of Ohio Apportionment Board

Re: 2011 Redistricting

I would like to encourage you to let Allen County remain as a House District unto itself as you go through the redistricting process.

I believe it would be unproductive to attempt any "split" of Allen County when redrawing the lines. I believe the County of Allen has sufficient population and meets the general criteria necessary to remain intact.

I realize that in the end this State will lose seats in the U.S. House of Representatives due to population decline and some district boundaries will change. The Lima City Council is going through our own redistricting process at this time.

We will be eliminating 1 Ward - going from 8 Wards to 7 Wards – and I know well the concerns of the voters affected and the concerns of elected officials regarding voter disenfranchisement. In our process, we have to attempt to follow natural boundaries, streets, etc. Basically we try to follow "obvious" points of demarcation. It appears to me that County boundary lines are such a "natural" boundary or point of demarcation that they could be used when considering redistricting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John G. Nixon
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