

TESTIMONY OF
SEAN LOGAN,
RESIDENT OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO
BEFORE THE 2011 OHIO APPORTIONMENT BOARD
AUGUST 23, 2011
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Members of the 2011 Apportionment Board:

My testimony in simple: Please respect Article XI, Section 9 of the Ohio Constitution and keep Columbiana County as a single, whole county Ohio House district.

As a resident of Columbiana County I believe that we represent one of the intended primary purposes of the 1967 Amendment to the 1851 Constitution. The drafters of the Amendment understand the significance, as do many Ohioans, to have a single voice representing our collective interest as a single, and whole, county. If we don't agree with the representation we are receiving, then, as a single, whole county district, we can vote for a change of voice.

As you know, Section 9 (When population of county is fraction of ratio of representation) provides for what I call, 'extra protection' to keep a county as a single, whole county House district by allowing the ratio of representation to deviate between 90% and 110% of the quotient. The quotient - or the "ratio of representation" - as provided for in Article 3 (Population of each House of Representatives district), is the state's total population divided by 99. Generally, Ohio House districts are not to be less than 95% and not more than 105% of the ration of representation.

The exception to the above general rule is also enunciated in Section 3: "*except in those instances where reasonable effort is made to avoid dividing a county in accordance with section 9 of this Article.*" This extra protection is specifically contemplated at the beginning of the apportionment process - not at the end. Further, with the numbering system delineated in Section 10 (Creation and numbering of House of Representatives districts) begins with single, whole county districts.

So, please, don't merge portions of an adjacent county with Columbiana County or split Columbiana County between other House districts.

To place a finer point on this request for common sense, my research as the Table below illustrates, there has only been one county that has **always** been a single, whole county Ohio House district since the adoption of this 1967 'one man, one vote' amendment - Columbiana County!

	2010		2000		1990		1980		1970
90%-110% of the Ration of Representation (by alpha)	Single, Whole County District w/ % of Ratio (by district number)		Single, Whole County District w/ % of Ratio (by district number)		Single, Whole County District w/ % of Ratio (by district number)		Single, Whole County District w/ % of Ratio (by district number)		Single, Whole County District w/ % of Ratio (by alpha)
Allen	91.2%	Columbiana	97.7%	Allen	100.2%	Allen	102.9%	Columbiana	100.6%
Columbiana	92.5%	Deleware	95.9%	Warren	103.9%	Ashtabula	95.5%	Licking	100.1%
Richland	106.8%	Wayne	97.2%	Columbiana	98.8%	Columbiana	104.1%		
Wayne	98.3%	Allen	94.5%	Wood	103.4%	Medina	103.7%		
Wood	107.7%	Fairfield	107%	Ashtabula	91.1%	Wood	98.4%		
		Wood	109.4%	Fairfield	94.4%				
				Wayne	92.6%				

As shown above, past deviations have ranged from the high of 109.4% (Wood 2000) and the low of 91.1% (Ashtabula 1990). Columbiana County's 2010 population - and all of the 2010 Census eligible counties - are within existing precedents and therefore, protect the integrity of Section 9 of the apportionment amendment.

It is interesting to note that as far back as 1857, Ohioans have been voting on various ways to provide for apportionment of Ohio House districts. After the landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases of *Baker v. Carr* in 1962 and *Reynolds v. Sims* in 1964, Ohioans defeated proposed constitutional amendments in May 1965 as well as in May 1967. Finally, on November 7, 1967, by 59%, Ohioans voted to replace the 1851 provision of at least one state representative for each county with the current Article XI.

While I am in no way the historian (or the cynic) that the *Plain Dealer's* Tom Suddes is, I will be the first to recognize the irony that a Democrat, me, is attempting to protect the last remaining vestiges of the pre-1967, Republican benefited scheme of at least one state representative for each county. However, this appearance is far from reality when you consider the consistent history and common sense approach that Section 9 has provided to the hundreds of thousands of Ohioans living in single, whole county districts.

Further, with the words, "*reasonable efforts shall be made*" Section 9 sets a high bar to deviate from its provisions and the consistent history of the previous four Apportionment Boards to split, or add to, a protected, single, whole county district such as Columbiana. In other words, you really would have to be going out of your way to add Carroll County or parts of Stark, Mahoning or Jefferson counties to a Columbiana County district (or splitting Columbiana among one or more of them). Any reconfiguration of Columbiana County other than a single, whole county district would be really hard pressed to pass the straight face test when you consider we border Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Meaning, there are fewer compelling reasons/factors to not make a reasonable effort to keep us whole, and single, when our 2010 ratio of 92.5% is 1.4% from the greatest past deviation (Ashtabula 1990) and 2.5% from the low end (90%) of the constitutional provisions in Section 9.

To add a personal and humorous story to this topic, I will always remember when then-State Rep. Lynn Watchman stopped me at the bank of elevators on the third floor of the Riffe Center in Columbus shortly after the 1990 election. I was still a new member of the Ohio House representing Columbiana County at age 24 and he said, "So, Sean, do you want to be a part of West Virginia or Pennsylvania?" I smugly replied while he was slapping his knee, "Article XI, Section 9."

I may be the only person in our county that cares so much about this issue, but I am thankful for this opportunity to express my views and for your time in dealing with this very serious matter. Columbian County has survived four rounds of reapportionment as a single, whole county Ohio House district, please make it five, and respect Ohio's constitution.

Thank you.

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