

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

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY, YOUNGSTOWN, 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 ~~Section~~ 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 ratio 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.

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.

Sean D. Logan
32927 Lucille Lane
Lisbon, Ohio 44432
330.853.6612