

Public Testimony on General Assembly Redistricting
Before the Ohio Apportionment Board
By Meg Flack, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Ohio
August 24, 2011

Good afternoon. I am Meg Flack, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. I would like to reiterate Caroline Putman's request that additional regional hearings be held after the Apportionment Board proposes General Assembly maps. Only then can the public give you concrete feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed maps.

This morning the League of Women Voters was proud to announce the contest winners for the General Assembly maps which most closely meet our criteria for maps that further the public interest. Under those measurable, objective criteria, maps need to:

- Comply with the Ohio Constitution and federal law, including the Voting Rights Act.
- Maps should have numerous competitive districts, while keeping in mind other good government values. Our democracy thrives when the marketplace of ideas is truly competitive, especially on Election Day. This measure seeks to maximize the number of legislative districts that could be won by either party, thereby providing Ohioans with a stronger voice in choosing their representatives.
- They should be representationally fair and reflect the fairly evenly divided partisan political values of Ohioans. This counterbalance for competitiveness encourages plans in which the number of districts which favor each political party reflects the statewide political balance based on the real world voting history of Ohioans.
- The maps should have districts that are compact. Sometimes referred to as the "look" of a district, compactness discourages bizarrely-shaped legislative districts that unnecessarily spread voters apart.
- The maps should preserve county boundaries and minimize the number of counties which are unnecessarily split into separate districts. This helps to keep communities of interest together and makes it easier for citizens to understand in which district they live.

The top two maps for the Ohio House and Senate are attached to my testimony. I recognize that direct comparison to the current legislative maps has limitations – for example, the population has shifted over the last ten years and computer technology is vastly improved. However, the winning maps are markedly better on all of the public interest criteria than the current house and senate district maps. Additional

information and analysis will be on our mapping website
www.drawthelineOhio.org.)

Finally, I want to note that it is also remarkable that the top two maps for the House – and the top two maps for the Senate -- are different in many ways, although all strongly reflect the public criteria. This is because a higher score on one criterion may lead to a lower score in some other area. Thus, there are likely to be a number of other ways to draw maps that are in the public interest and are fair to voters.

Our hope is that the Apportionment Board considers these maps and proposes maps that are equivalently in the public interest and equally fair to voters.

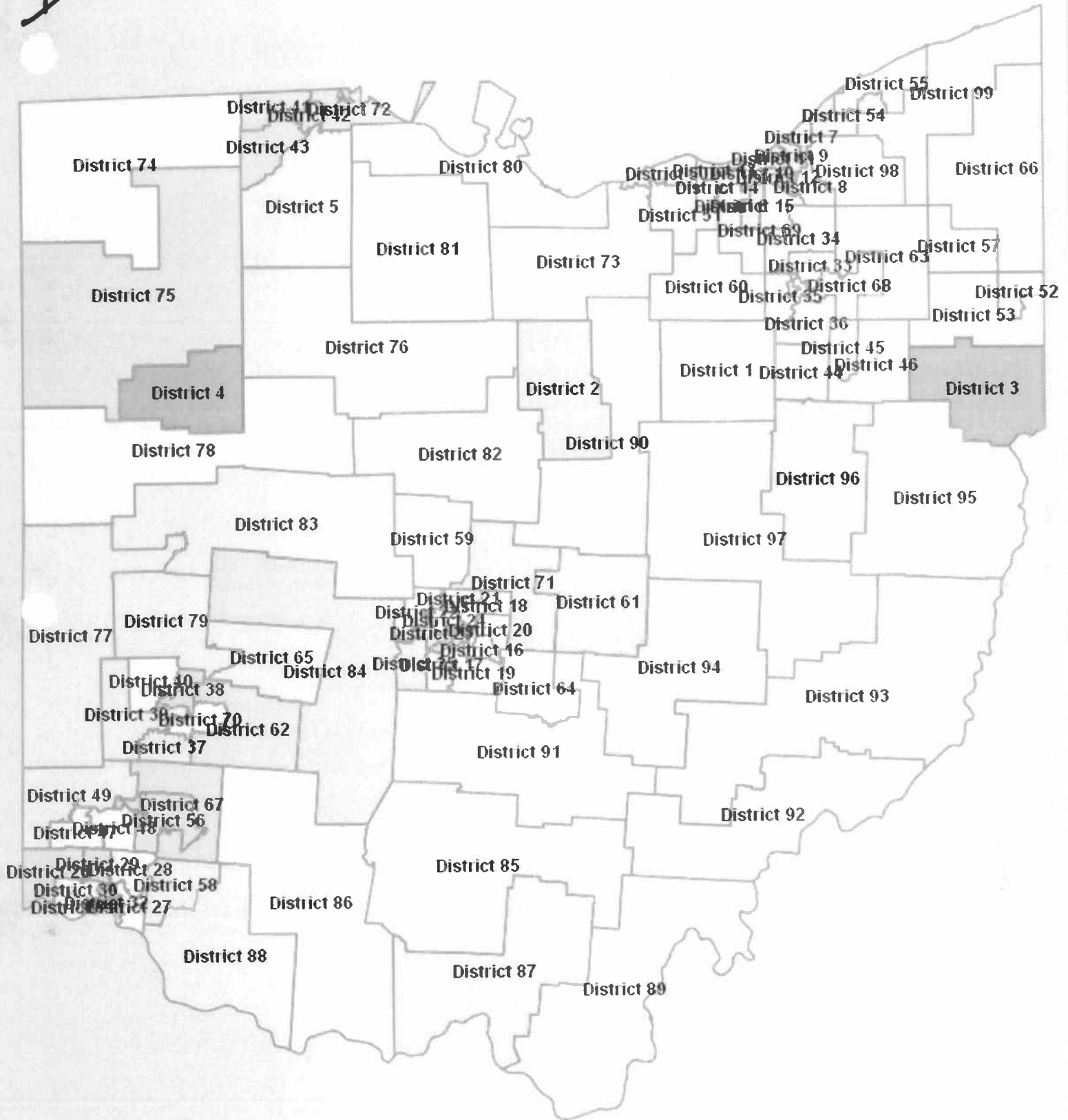
Thank you for your attention, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Attached: Winning Legislative Maps - Draw the Line Ohio, Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting:

- 1st Place, Ohio House Districts: Mike Fortner
- 2nd Place, Ohio House Districts: Tim Clarke
- 1st Place, Ohio Senate Districts: Mike Fortner
- 2nd Place, Ohio Senate Districts: Tim Clarke

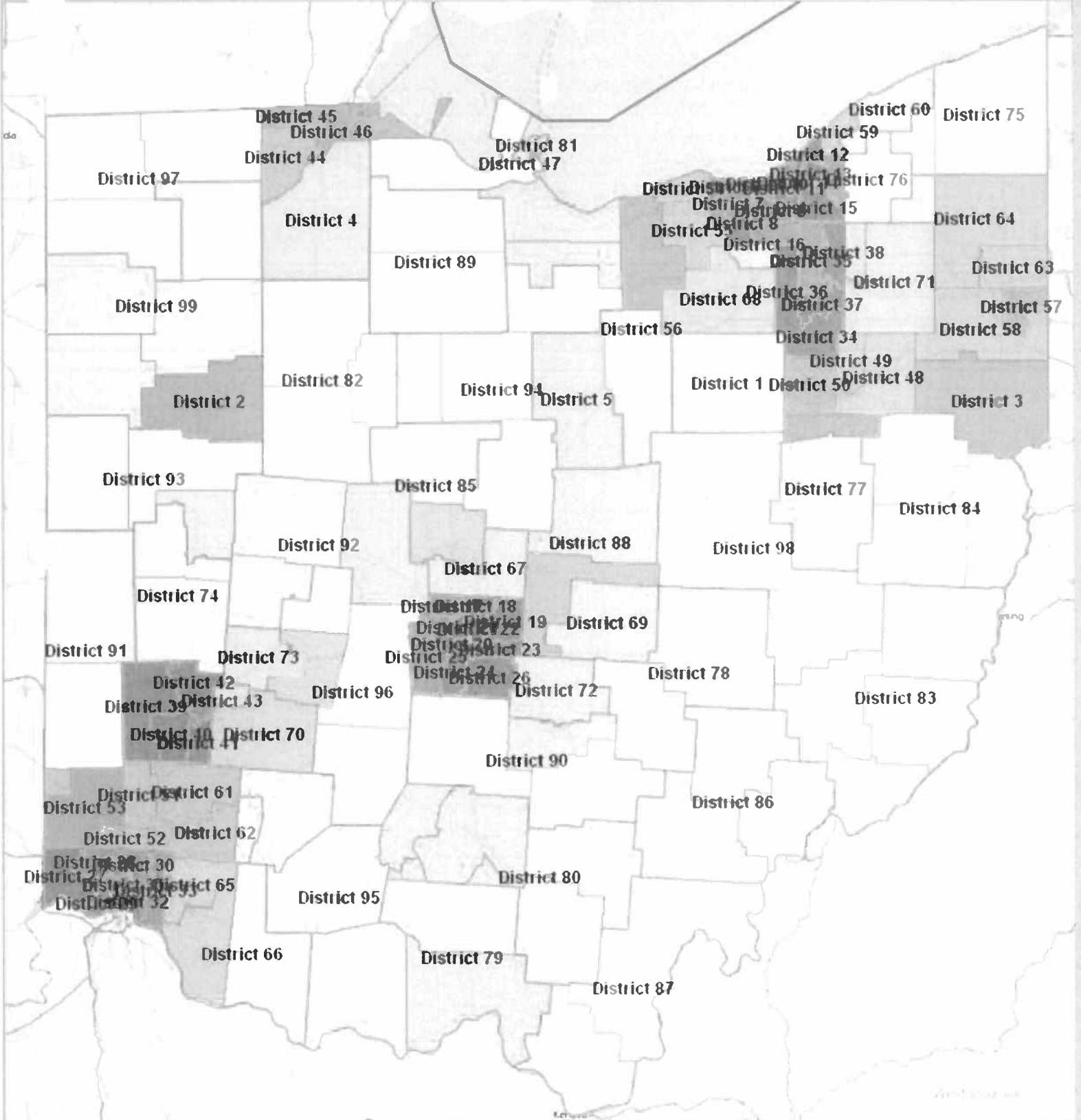
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Mike Fortner -- Ohio House Districts

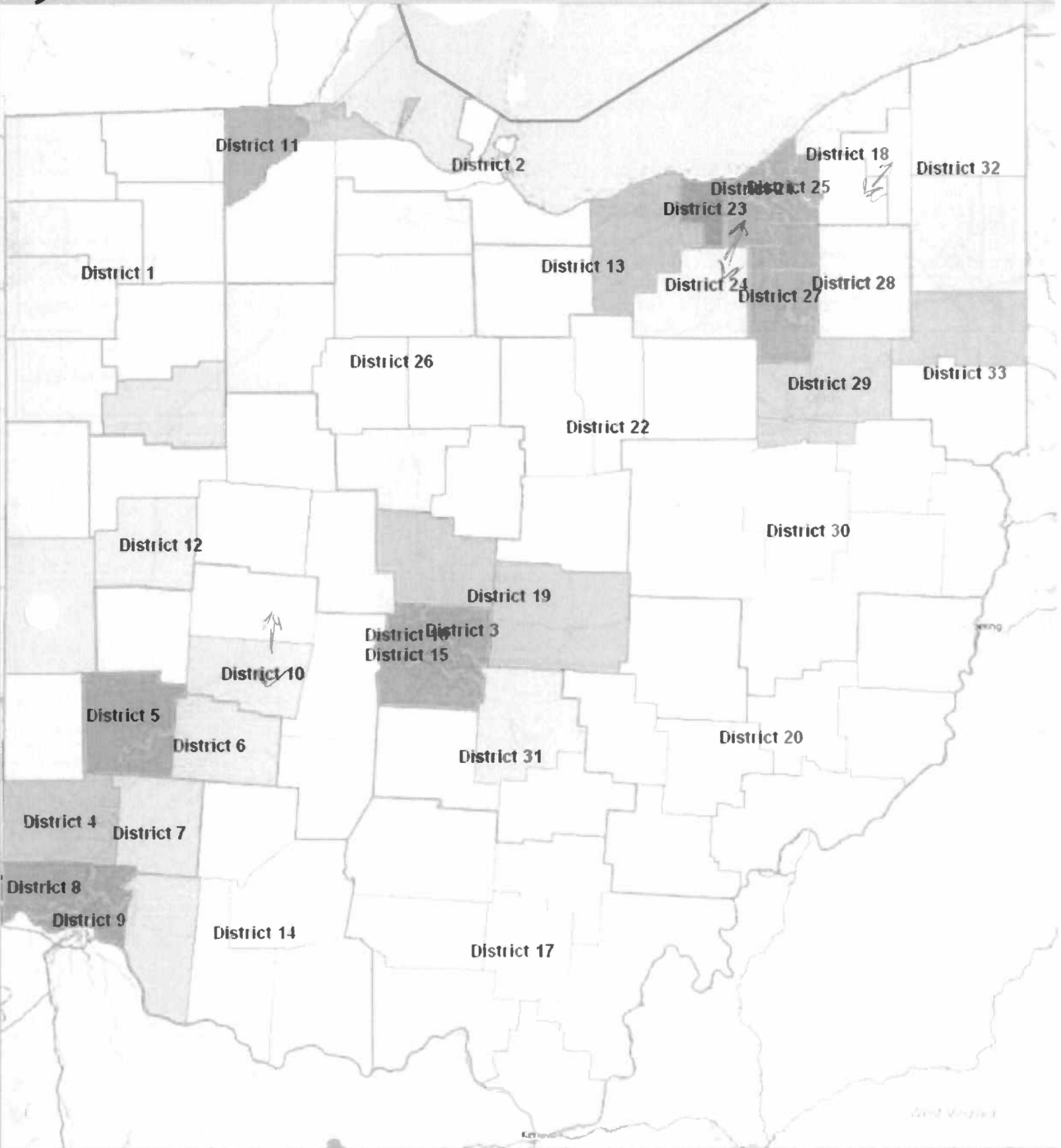


2nd

Tim Clarke – House – Full



1st



2nd

Tim Clarke – Senate – Full

3

