

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON STATE SENATE AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICTS BEFORE THE APPORTIONMENT BOARD
STATE OF OHIO

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DAYTON AREA

AUGUST 25, 2011

Good morning. I am Vivienne Himmell, a long time member of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area, and a long time resident of Montgomery County.

I come before you today to make a plea to this Board to remove the partisan politics from the drawing of district lines in order to give voters a chance to vote for the candidate of their choice without the feeling of defeat before they cast their ballot. Let the voters decide who will be elected by creating districts which aren't biased toward one party or the other. When politicians create one sided districts, we end up with legislators on the far left or far right, instead of in the middle, where the voters are.

I have enclosed a map of Ohio senate districts, and would direct you to the 5th and 6th Senate Districts. We refer to this configuration as our donut hole, which is so flagrantly manipulated that it hardly requires an election. It takes Democratic sections and tacks them on to solidly Republican areas, and then surrounds it with areas that have very little in common. This strange configuration also affects the 12th Senate district, which comes down from Mercer, cuts out a piece of Darke, and on to Preble counties.

Montgomery County is 51% Republican, however 3 House districts are solidly Republican and 2 are solidly Democratic. Therefore, there is no competitiveness and Republicans are assured of a 3 to 2 advantage in every election.

All of this being said, we urge you to adopt a map that is generated from the redistricting competition. This competition is the only place where the public can draw maps which will be scored based on objective nonpartisan criteria. We also urge you to have your maps available two weeks before your next hearing. This would give the public an opportunity to study the maps and make comments.

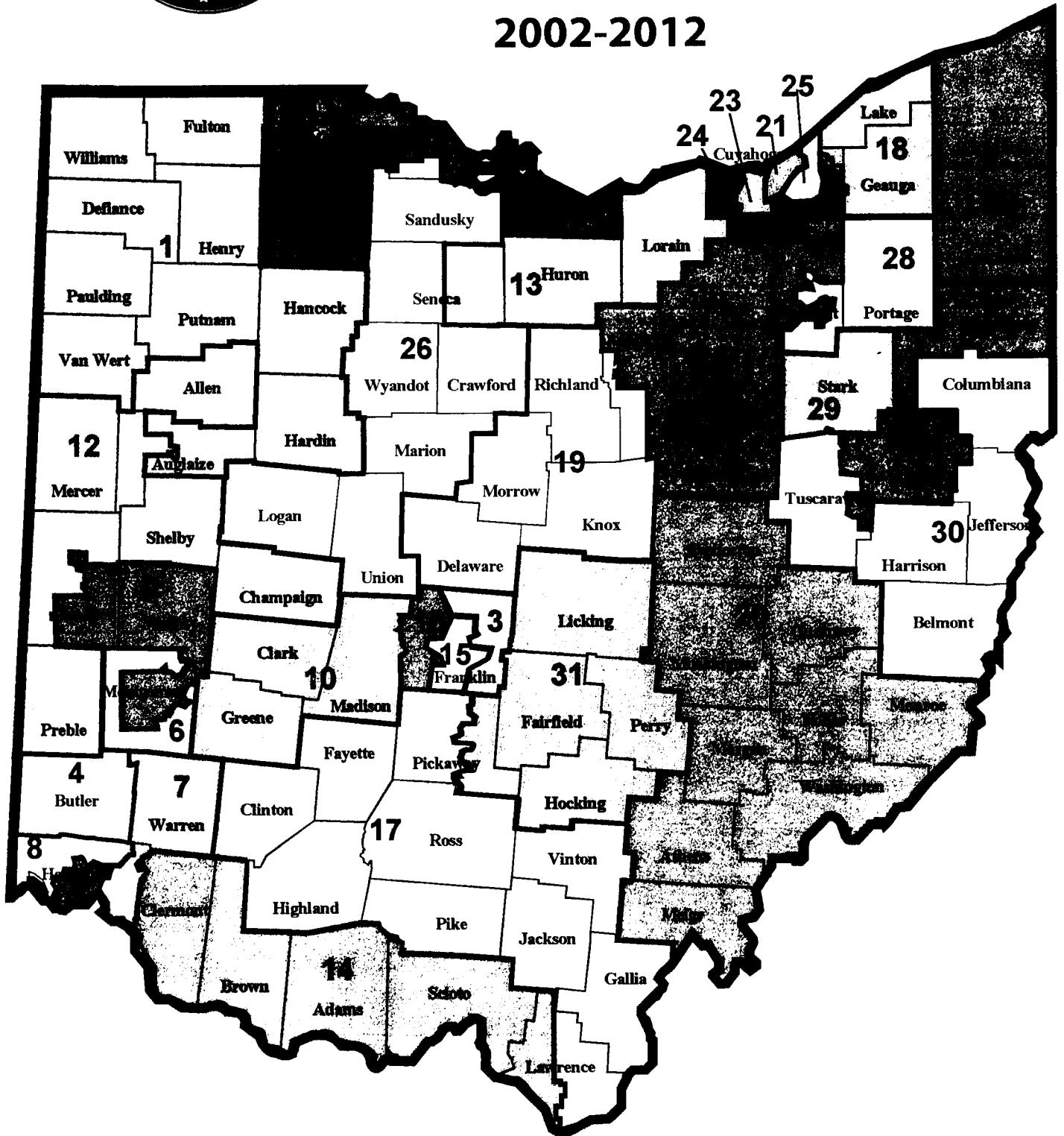
By taking the strong political bias out of the redistricting process, we can make Ohio the envy of other states, who continue to struggle with the political methods of determining districts, and which is a continuing threat to our democratic process.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.



OFFICE OF THE OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

Ohio Senate Districts 2002-2012





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Ohio House Districts
2002-2012

