



League of Women Voters of Greater Cincinnati
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Public Testimony on State Redistricting
By Alice Schneider, League of Women Voters of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio
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Good Afternoon. My name is Alice Schneider and I am the immediate past president of the League of Women Voters.

While redistricting is only one part of the electoral system, it is a very important part. The League of Women Voters urges that any plan the Apportionment Board adopts be composed of districts that is politically balanced and does not favor one party or the other. Keep districts competitive as much as possible because competitive districts will require legislators to be accountable to the public.

Currently in our local area, for example, there is a lack of competitive house districts. Hamilton Co has 7 full and 1 partial house district (28-35). Only the 28th district is competitive. The winning candidates in the other districts received 56%, 60%, 63%, 65%, 69%, 73%, 79%. These results are fairly consistent with the political index for each of these districts. As one of my colleagues noted about one of these districts, you could be dead and still win.

There is a lack of competitive senate districts. Hamilton County has 2 full districts. 8th is strongly Republican (Seitz elected w/ 59.55; index 59%R). 9th is strongly Democratic (Kearney elected w/ 68%; index 72%D). 7th District which is mixture of Hamilton and Warren Counties is strong Republican (Jones elected w/ 72%; index 59%R).

Representational fairness in Hamilton County is fine. County has a 50% political index. Of the 7 full districts, 3 are strong Democratic, 3 are strong Republican, one leans Democratic. The partial district is strong Republican.

Consider adopting a map generated from the League of Women Voters' map competition. The winning maps were announced yesterday (Wednesday, August 24th).

In summary, the League urges the Apportionment Board to adopt a plan that keeps the good of the voters, not the good of the politicians, in mind.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice B. Schneider