



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OHIO**

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Public Testimony on General Assembly Redistricting
Before the Ohio Apportionment Board
By Ann Henkener, League of Women Voters of Ohio
August 26, 2011

Last fall I found this quote in the Columbus Dispatch by Ohio GOP Chairman Kevin DeWine.

“I’m not paid by the League of Women Voters or Common Cause or any group that wants a process of fair maps, however you define that. I’m in the business of drawing the most Republican map you can find.”

I was particularly interested in it because the League had worked together with him when he was in the House of Representatives on reform of redistricting. What was striking was that I had worked with him in his role as an elected official and he was now speaking as the Chairman of a political party. It is perfectly appropriate for a political party leader to want to advantage his party. But the Ohio Constitution does not delegate responsibility to draw new districts to a political party, it delegates that responsibility to elected officials who are charged with the responsibility of serving ALL Ohioans, not their political party. Districts have been redrawn four times since 1967 when the voters approved the current responsibilities of the Ohio Apportionment Board. Twice the Democratic elected representatives put party first, and twice the Republican elected representatives put party first. Hopefully this year, the Apportionment Board will put the interests of ALL Ohioans ahead of party and approve districts that allow the voters to elect people who fairly represent ALL Ohioan’s views.

I would also like to explain how the League of Women Voters of Ohio defines a “fair map.” In our 2009 competition we selected four objective criteria we thought would produce districts that would in turn produce representatives that would truly represent Ohioans. Those same criteria were used in competitions in other states, so they clearly resonated with other good government groups.

First, all legal requirements must be met. Districts must be contiguous and have nearly equal populations. Voting Rights Act requirements must be met both to the letter and spirit of the law. Ohio’s Constitutional requirements concerning keeping political subdivision together must be met, as well as the requirement for compact districts.

Beyond that, a fair map would have at least two additional attributes – it would be representationally fair – that it, it wouldn’t have a partisan gerrymander, and it wouldn’t have more non-competitive or “safe” districts than would naturally occur.

Encouraging informed and active participation in government
Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues
Influencing public policy through education and advocacy

This year, the League and other good government groups sponsored a competition in which anyone could submit Ohio House and Senate maps to be judged on good government criteria. The winners were announced this past Wednesday and the winning maps are attached – two for the House and two for the Senate. They score higher than our current maps on all of our criteria. More specifically:

Fortner maps – first place

- 25 highly competitive state house districts as compared to ten currently.
- Equal number of senate districts favoring the Republicans and Democrats, as compared to current districts that favor Republicans in 20 out of 33 districts.
- Only 37 county fragments in the house and senate combined, as compared to 68 currently.

Clarke maps – second place

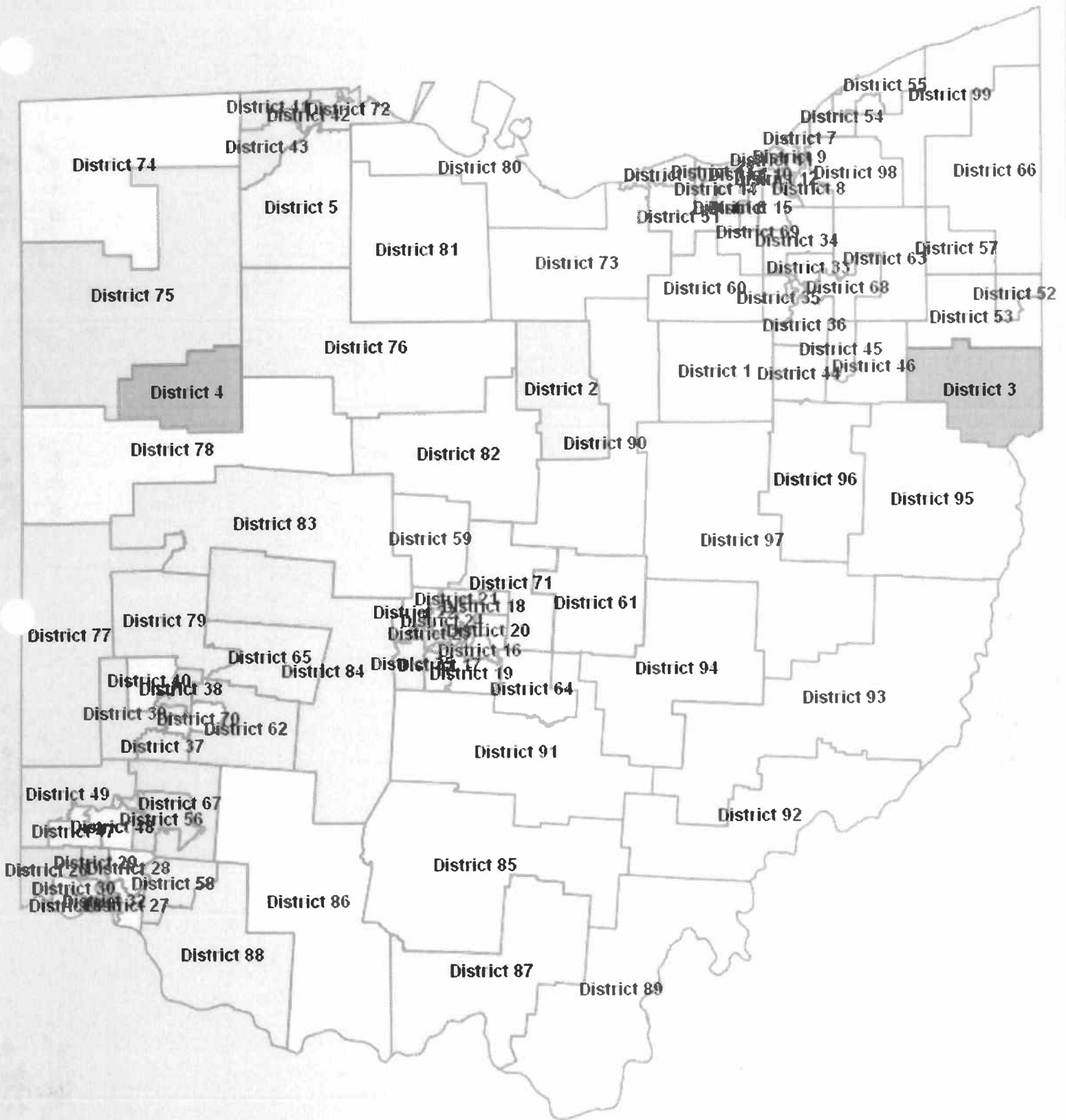
- 14 competitive senate districts as compared with nine currently.
- 22 highly competitive house districts as compared to ten currently.
- Both house and senate maps have more compact districts and fewer county fragments than current maps.

Perhaps these maps can be improved upon in the next several weeks by the Ohio Apportionment Board.

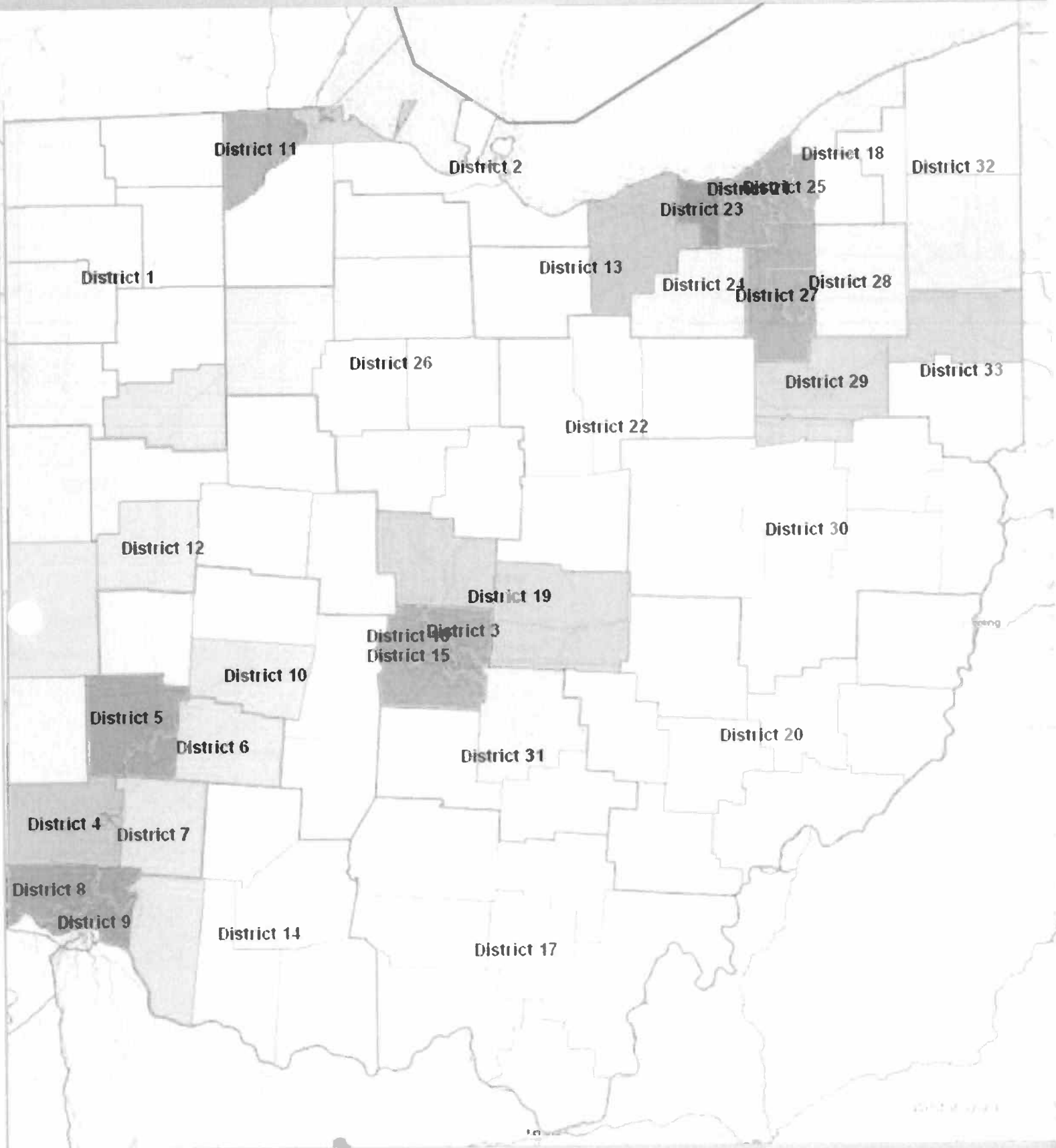
I encourage the members of the Apportionment Board to depart from the past precedent of drawing districts for partisan political gain. Districts should be drawn to produce representatives reflecting the political values of the voters, not the political values of one political party.

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

Mike Fortner -- Ohio House Districts



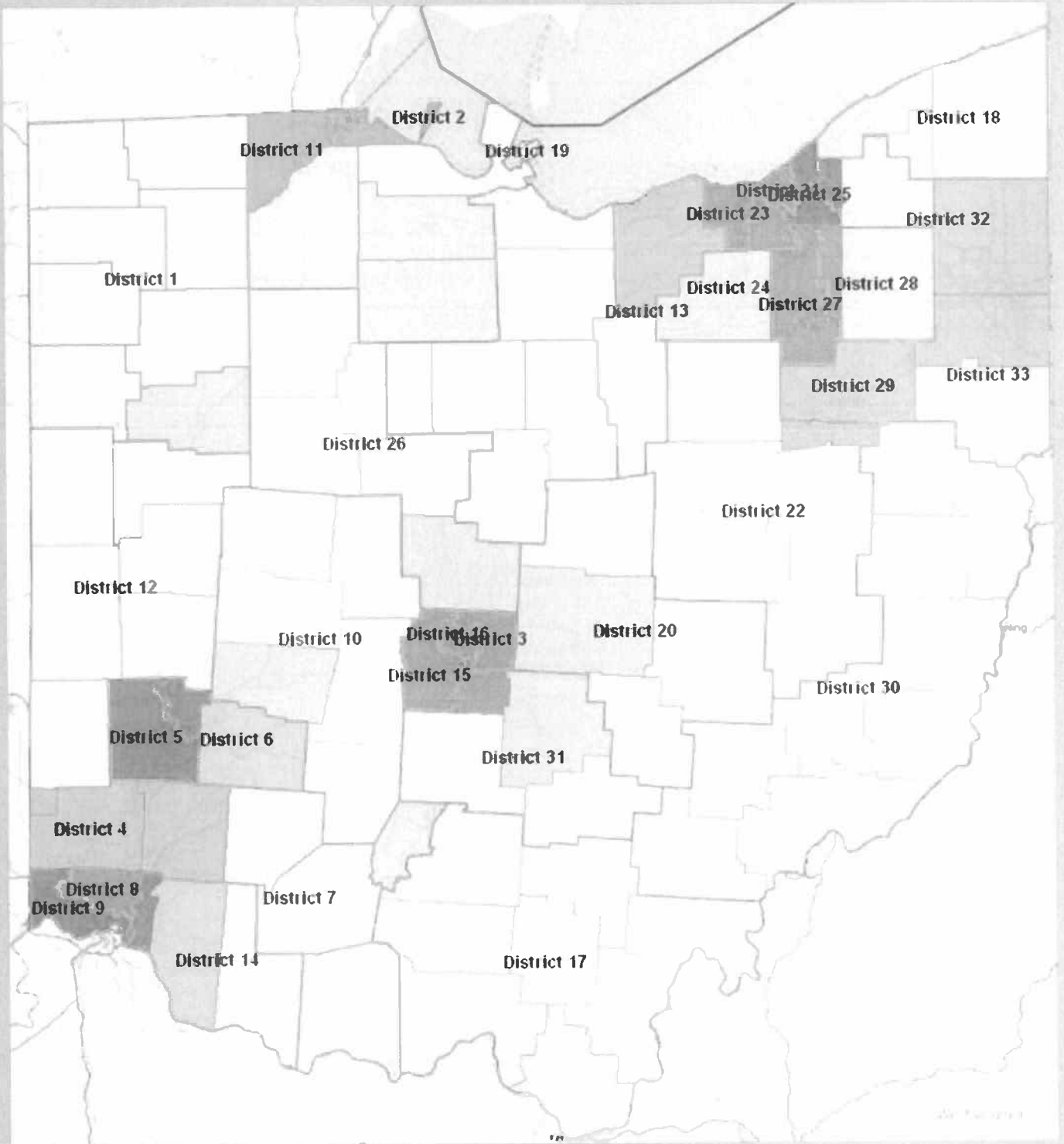
Mike Fortner – Senate –Full



Tim Clarke – House – Full



Tim Clarke – Senate – Full



Comparison of Winning Maps to Current Maps

	Splits	Compactness	Competitiveness	Rep. Fairness	Total
Current	27.75	35.0	13.4	60.8	136.95
Fortner	38.25	40.35	18.0	93.6	190.2
Clarke	33.5	40.2	19.4	81.9	175.0

County Fragments

Current	45 – House	23 – Senate	68 – Total
Fortner	27 – House	10 – Senate	37 – Total
Clarke	36 – House	15 – Senate	51 – Total

House Districts

	Heavily Competitive	Generally Competitive	Generally Not Competitive	Heavily Not Competitive
Current	10	20	6	63
Fortner	25	10	13	51
Clarke	22	14	10	53

	Strong Rep	Lean Rep.	Even	Lean Dem	Strong Dem
Current	42	18	3	9	27
Fortner	38	11	7	17	26
Clarke	39	12	8	16	24

Senate Districts

	Heavily Competitive	Generally Competitive	Generally Not Competitive	Heavily Not Competitive
Current	7	2	3	21
Fortner	6	8	5	14
Clarke	9	5	6	13

	Strong Rep	Lean Rep.	Even	Lean Dem	Strong Dem
Current	14	6	1	2	10
Fortner	11	4	3	7	8
Clarke	12	5	1	8	7