

My name is Norman Montiegel and I wish to submit my views regarding reapportionment this afternoon at this hearing of the Ohio Apportionment Board held here at Columbus State Community College.

My main concern regarding this matter is not that of party affiliation but that the districts drawn up are open to competing contests within the new districts. The current single member districts of the legislative bodies stifle the voices of many in the district from which one has been elected.

To increase the competitiveness of our electorate in the districts and in the legislature, multimember districts would permit this. This can be done by combining two or more of the proposed districts to be designated as multimember districts.

This would allow competing views from the districts and even from elected members of the same party to be presented. It would give many voters in these multimember districts a chance to offer themselves as candidates for election to the legislative chambers. The cost of financing a campaign would be greatly reduced.

Although the major lobbying groups would still have their input, the increase in competition would negate their influence.

I do wish the board considers multimember districts as a viable alternative to the current uncompetitive single member districts that stifle the electorate's voice in Ohio state legislative governance.

Thank you for permitting to put forth my views on the important matter before you. I will entertain any questions regarding this proposal that you may have.

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