

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING  
BEFORE THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE ON  
REDISTRICTING

BY VIVIENNE HIMMELL, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER  
DAYTON AREA

AUGUST 2, 2011

Good afternoon: I am Vivienne Himmell, a long time member of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area. Our League includes both Montgomery County and Greene County, which are contiguous counties and connected by similar needs, but that represent diversity of residents in background and beliefs.

Montgomery County in Ohio is a typical example of politicized districts that virtually guarantee a win for the party in power. And we go through this process every four years with the same results. One look at the districts in Montgomery County shows that gerrymandering was necessary in order to elect people within a certain party, with no real competition or contest. This is not real democracy. Our system has always guaranteed one person one vote. But it's not happening.

I have enclosed a map of the Third Congressional District, and you will see that the district includes parts of four counties, none of which have any relationship to Montgomery in population or interests. It also shows that there is a tiny piece of Montgomery County that has been carved out and attached to the Eighth Congressional District, with which they have no relationship whatsoever.

All of that said, the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area is hoping to participate in an exercise in developing a district plan that will encompass the complete county while remaining competitive. In order to accommodate the proper number of voters within a district, it may be necessary to spill over into a contiguous county, but to still remain as compact as possible. As our county's district lines are presently drawn, we have little sections that are represented by officials who live farther away, while local officials travel to distant locations with which they have very little relationship.

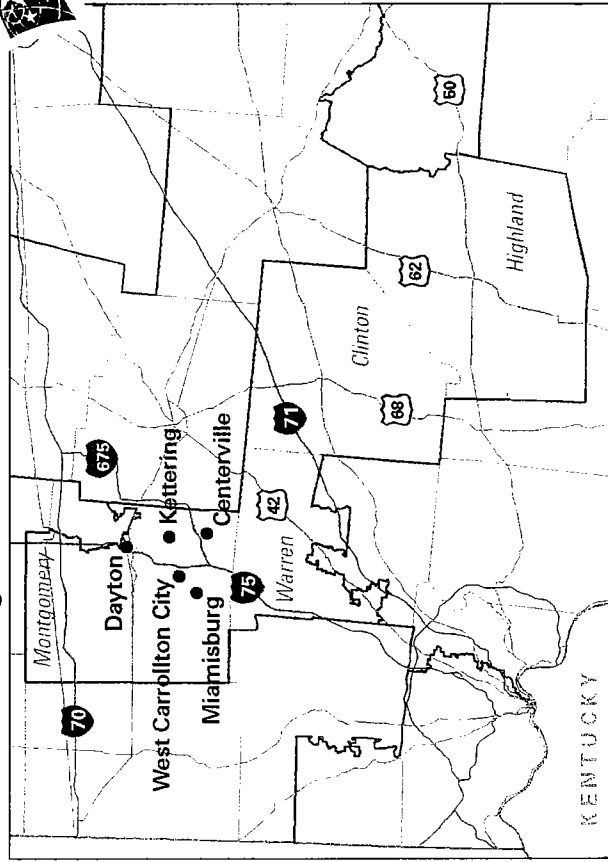
A competition is being conducted this year that will use data and criteria that are available to the legislature and that will emphasize the importance of keeping counties intact. The maps will be drawn with almost equal population, emphasizing competitiveness and contiguity. The public has been asked to submit maps using these data. We urge you to look at those maps as a route to fair districts that will help voters to make a legitimate decision in choosing their elected officials.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

# Congressional District 3

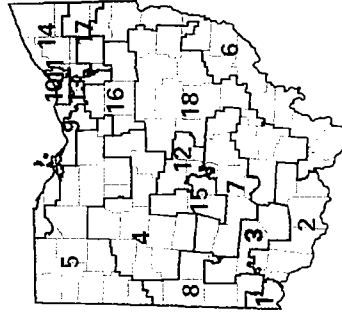


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**3** Congressional District

Clinton County



Ohio (18 Districts)



