



**Testimony about the Fair Districts Model Congressional Map
Before the Ohio Redistricting Commission
By Catherine Turcer, Common Cause Ohio and Fair Districts Ohio
February 23, 2022**

Model Map Overview

We are pleased to present the Fair Districts Ohio Model Congressional map. This plan has negligible partisan bias, meaning that it doesn't unfairly favor any party, according to the analytical measurements utilized in Dave's Redistricting App. Our model map is better than the struck down congressional map on every measure, scoring high for proportionality, compactness, competitiveness and minority representation, while minimizing splits in political subdivisions.

Model Map Creation

After the January 14 decision invalidating the congressional maps, I was really looking forward to the re-draw and waited not terribly patiently for legislative hearings to begin. On January 26, Senate Bill 286 was introduced as a declaration to "*revise congressional district boundaries.*" Rather than waiting for the legislature to take up the pen, the Fair Districts Ohio team decided that we could get back to the drawing board too.

In the fall, we held the Fair Districts Mapping Competition, and our Advisory Committee¹ identified [three winning maps](#).² You likely remember these winning maps which I reviewed for the Ohio Redistricting Commission on Oct. 28. Each of these maps was created based on the rules established in the Ohio Constitution, avoiding county splits since counties are the building blocks of congressional districts, and keeping communities together.

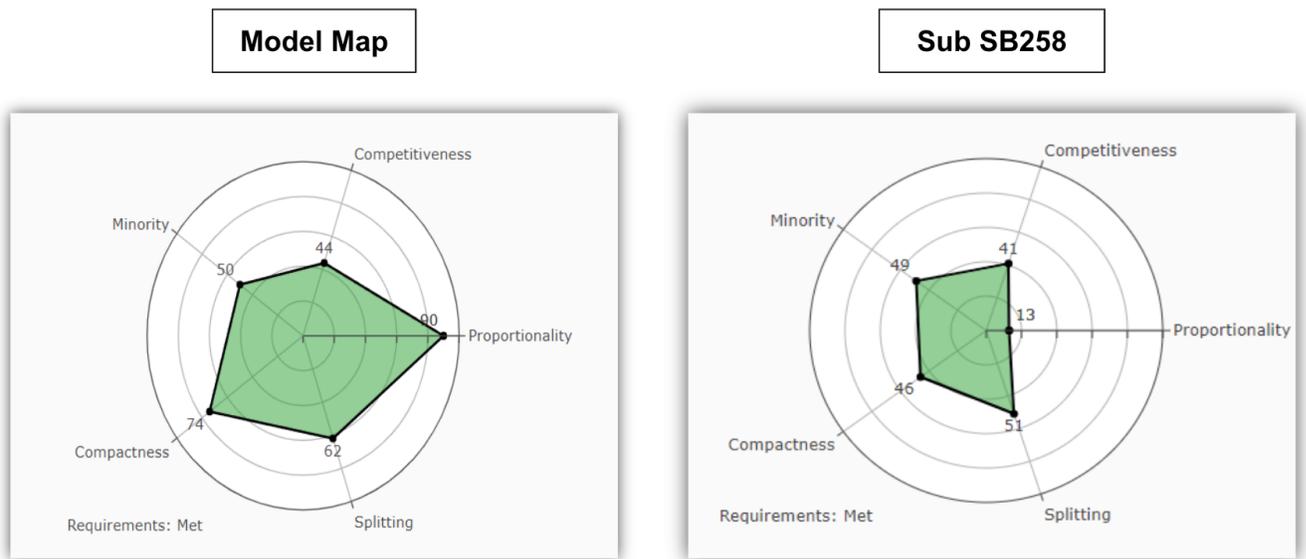
The Fair Districts team focused on exploring and analyzing each of these winning maps, reviewing [community maps created during 2021](#), and looking at regional resource maps. Paul Nieves, an amateur mapmaker who is part of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project's Mapping Corp, took the lead on the creation of the demonstration or model map we have put before you today. Mr. Nieves came in second in both the state legislative and congressional competitions.

Sarah Andre of Common Cause reviewed the maps in Maptitude, the software that the official mapmakers use. Trevor Martin of Columbus assessed the new district lines with a focus on community maps, and Michael Ahern from Blacklick who has more than a dozen years of zoning experience focused on how the districts best align with metropolitan and rural planning organizations' district lines.³

Model Map Description

A comparison with the now struck-down map shows that our model map outperforms on every measure.

Comparison to Sub SB258 (Struck down)

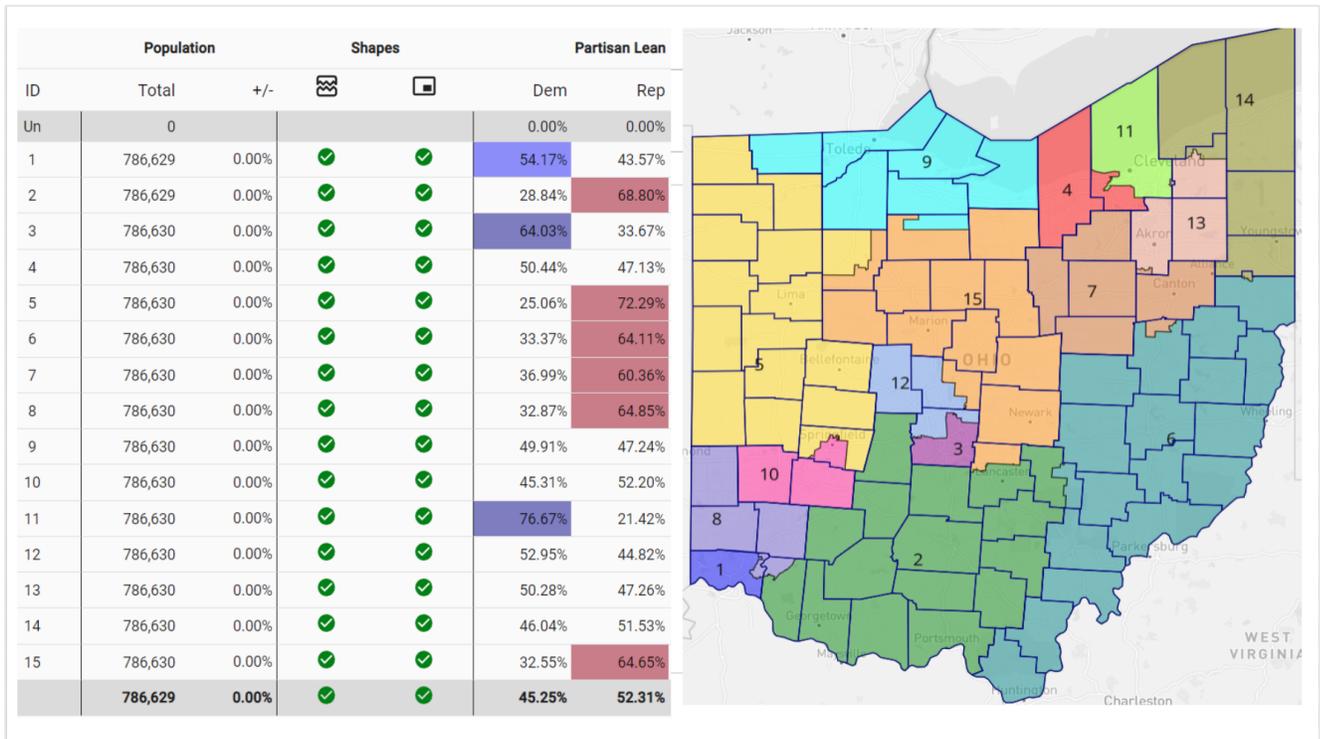


(Bigger is better in the rankings above)

Only fourteen counties are split and districts are drawn for coherent representation, encompassing areas with similar economic and geographic characteristics that share media markets, transportation routes, planning priorities, school districts, and other governmental units. In addition to keeping small local communities together, this proposal also identifies and keeps regional communities of interest together as well. For example, the Greater Toledo area including Wood County and the Western Erie shoreline; the North Central Ohio region including the cities of Tiffin, Mansfield, and Marion; and the Appalachian Region which hugs the Southeastern portion of the Ohio River Valley.

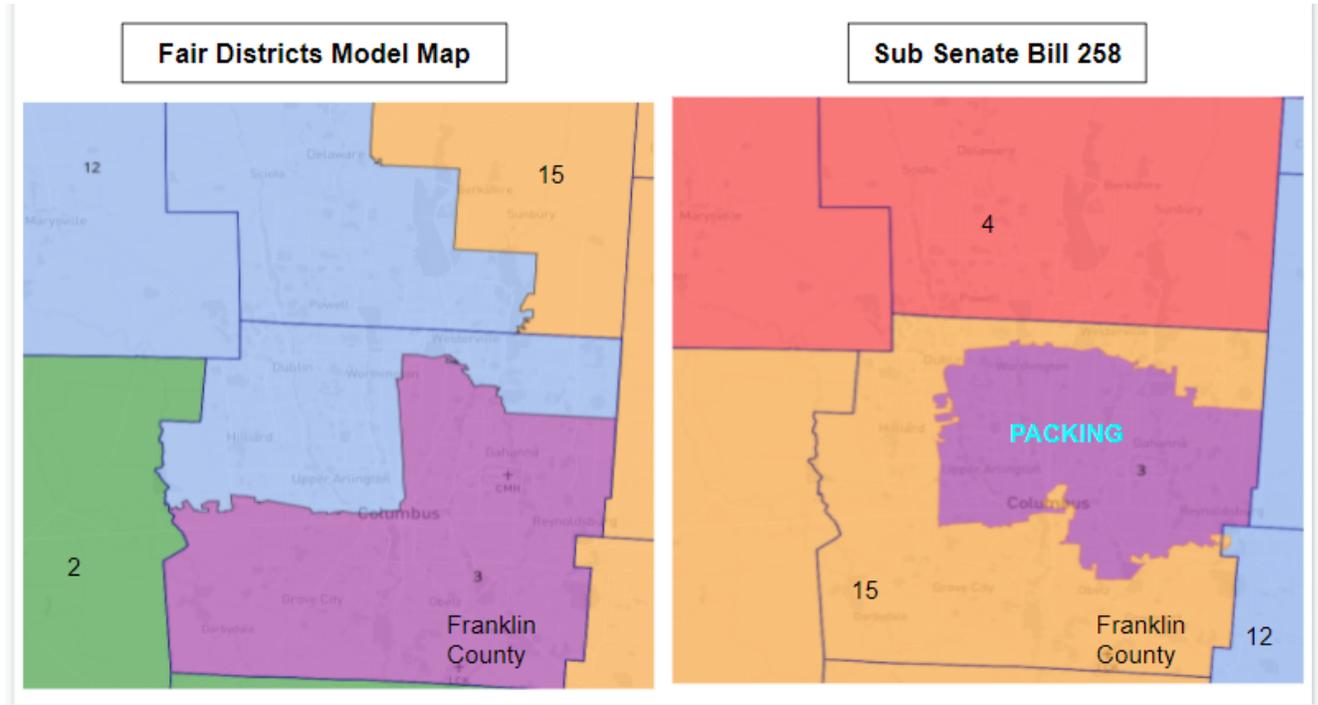
The congressional districts have a population deviation of only one person (786,629 or 786,630 Ohioans). In order to avoid favoring or disfavoring incumbents, this map was drawn “blind” without knowledge or consideration of incumbent or challenger addresses. **The Fair Districts Model Map is compact** and rated as “good” by Dave’s Redistricting App and 0.4380 on Reock and 0.3863 using the Polsby-Popper method.

The Fair Districts Model Congressional Map achieves representational fairness while delivering high competitiveness. Dave’s Redistricting App indicates the model map is likely to be an 8R/7D or 9R/6D map, with three districts that are around three points: Districts 4, 9, and 13.



Model Map Regional Details

Franklin County

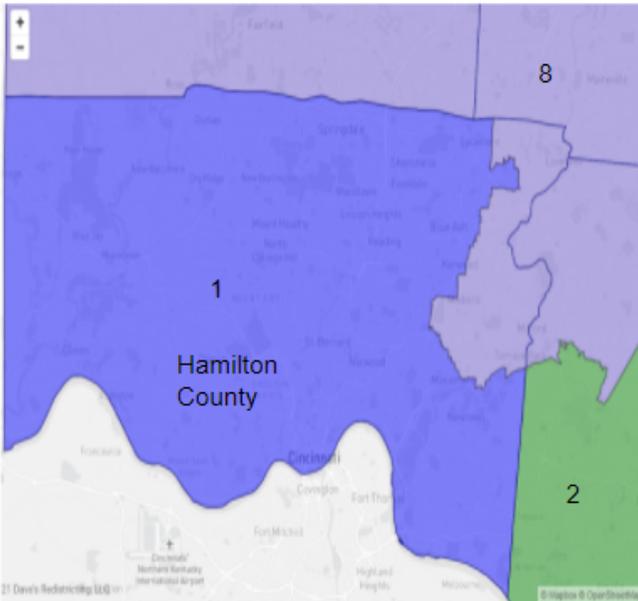


Franklin County in the Fair District Model Map is divided into two districts. Congressional District 3 is wholly in Franklin County. This keeps the minority communities of the western and southern parts of Franklin County together. Congressional District 12 joins with neighboring counties Union and Delaware. This division keeps the northern suburb of Dublin in the same congressional district, keeping the Dublin City School District intact. It also keeps nearby Hilliard, Worthington, and Powell in the same congressional district. The Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization is anchored in both Franklin and Delaware and is responsible for the transportation planning process in the two counties, which involves millions of federal transportation funds provided by Congress, and advocates for environmentally and economically sustainable practices on behalf of the region in the halls of the Ohio Statehouse and U.S. Capitol. The Fair Districts Ohio map also keeps Westerville whole, at the center of the Westerville City School District which straddles Franklin and Delaware counties and includes adjacent parts of Genoa and Blendon Townships, Minerva Park, and parts of Northeast Columbus.

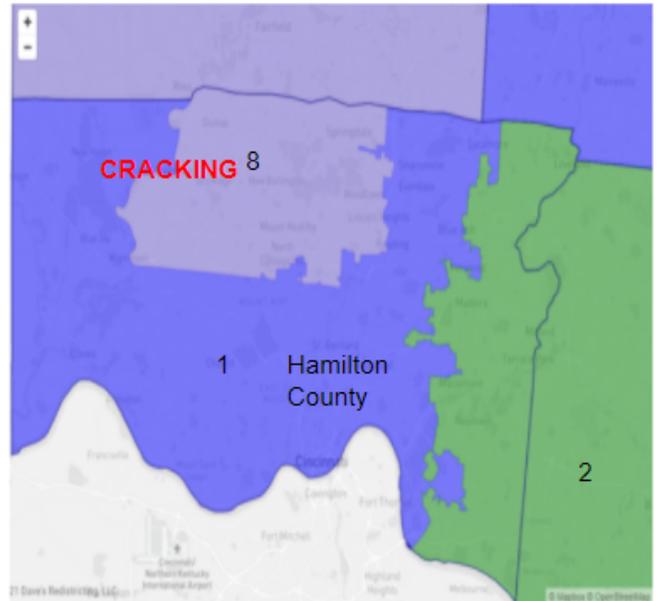
- [Westerville](#) Community Map⁴
- [Dublin/Powell](#) Community Map

Hamilton County

Fair Districts Model Map



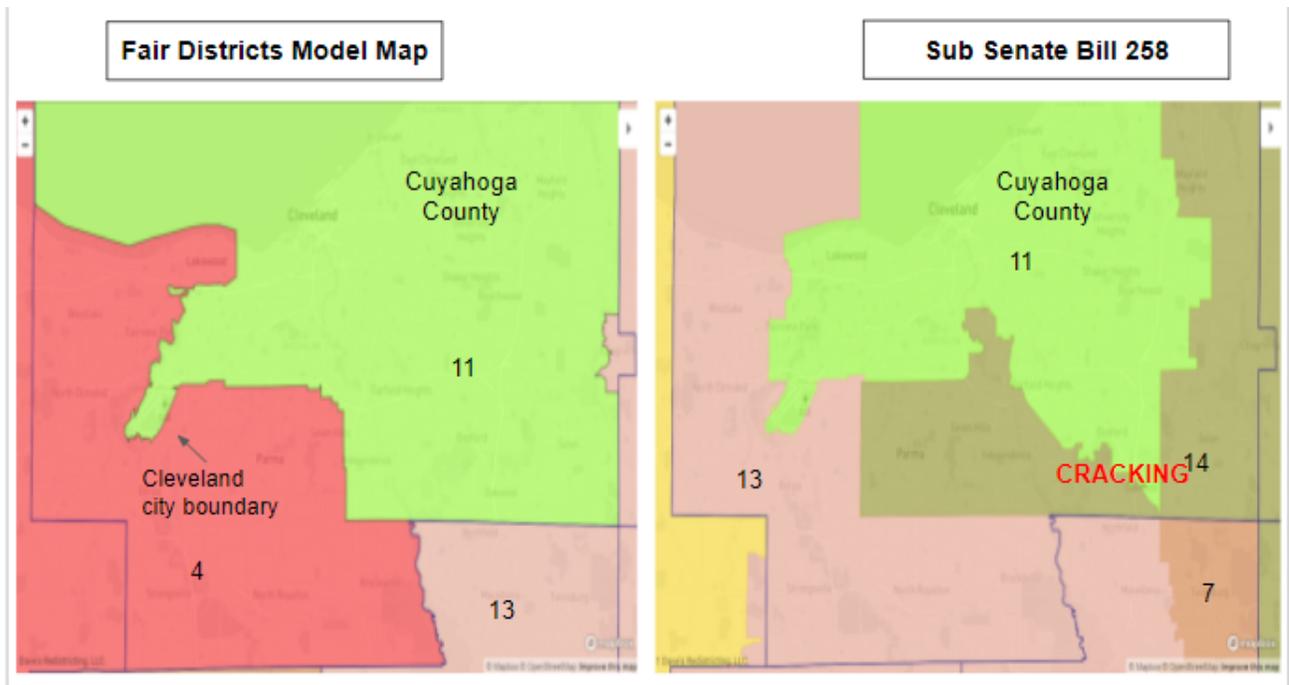
Sub Senate Bill 258



The Fair District Model Map keeps District 1 wholly in **Hamilton County** and keeps the city of Cincinnati whole— something advocated for passionately by residents of the area. Minority communities in the northern part of the county, including North College Hill, Forest Park, Springdale, Woodlawn, and Lincoln Heights, are kept together ensuring a strong opportunity district. The remaining portion of Hamilton County is paired with Warren County, which retains the area’s current and familiar district pairing.

- [Finneytown](#) Community Map
- [College Hill/Mt. Healthy](#) Community Map

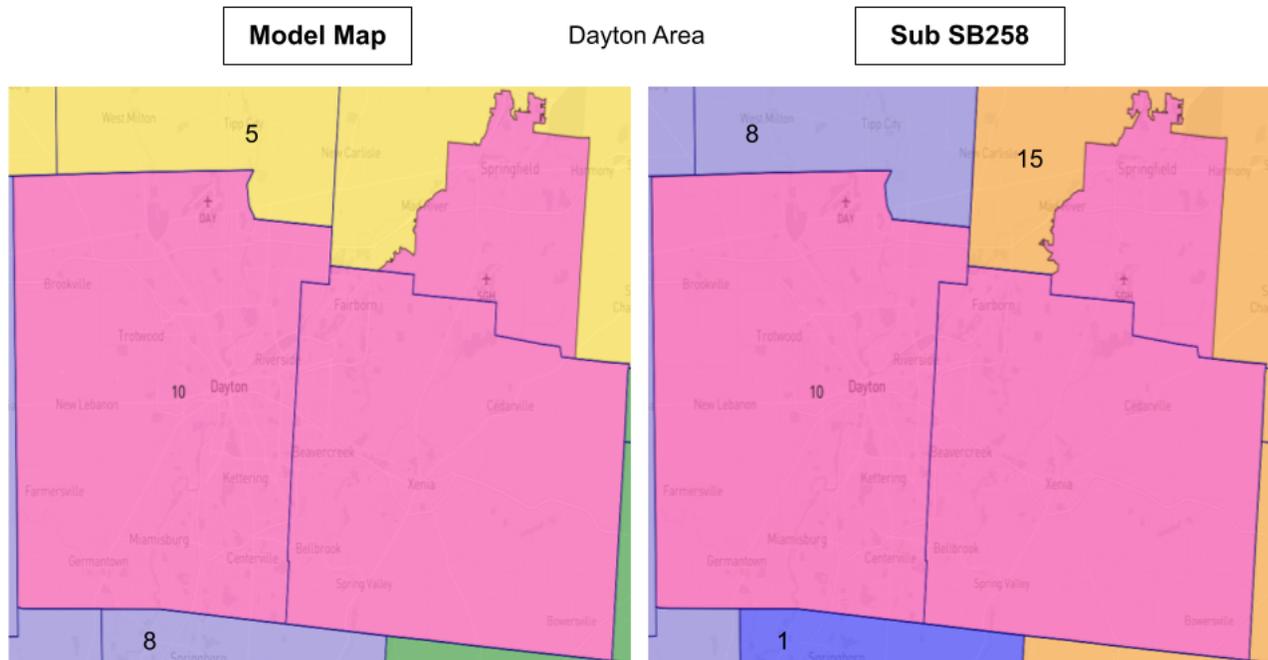
Cuyahoga County



Cuyahoga County has long had an eastside/westside divide. Congressional District 11 in the Fair Districts Model Map includes Cleveland and the east side of Cuyahoga County. CD 11 keeps together the county's mostly black cities in the eastern portion of the county. These areas are identified as a community of interest by many residents. The western portion is paired with Lorain County, as advocated for by residents in those areas.

- [Bay Village](#) Community Map
- [East Cleveland](#) Community Map
- [Lakewood](#) Community Map
- [Rocky River](#) Community Map
- [Shaker Heights](#) Community Map

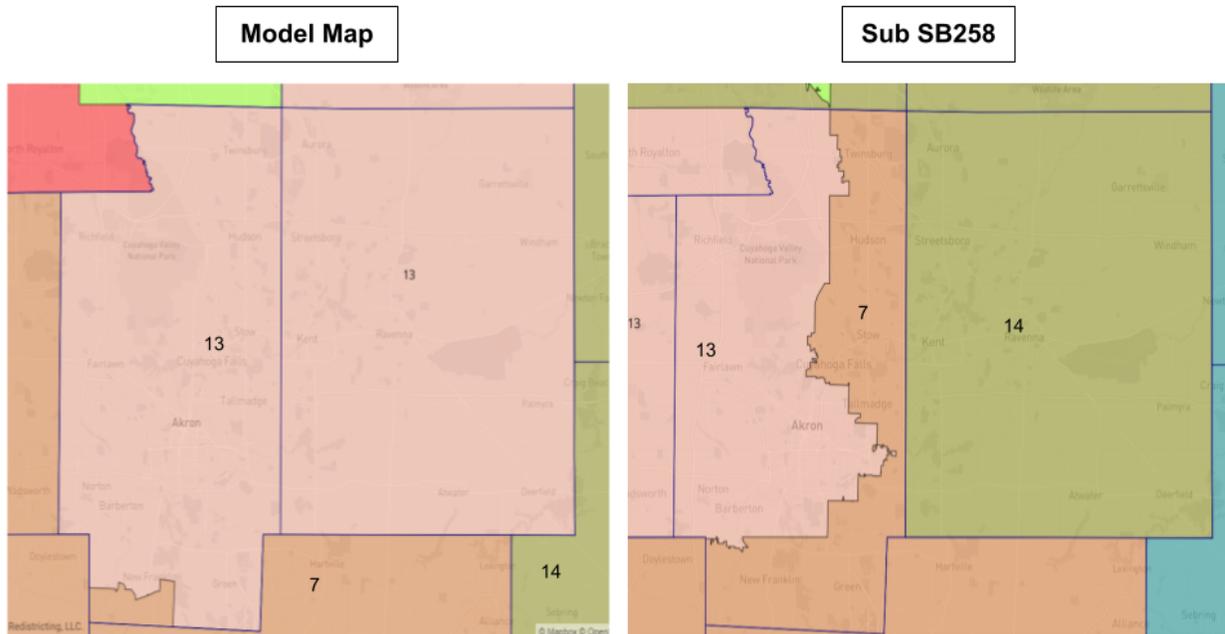
Dayton and Springfield area



In the Fair Districts Model Map, **Dayton and Springfield** are kept together in one competitive district, CD 10. You will note that this district is nearly identical to the invalidated Congressional District 10. Western Greene County continues to grow rapidly and shares an economy and workforce with Montgomery County that is largely dominated by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Wright State University. The Kettering Health Network also spans both counties.

- [Beavercreek](#) Community Map
- [Centerville/Cornerstone & Washington Township](#) Community Map
- [Kettering](#) Community Map

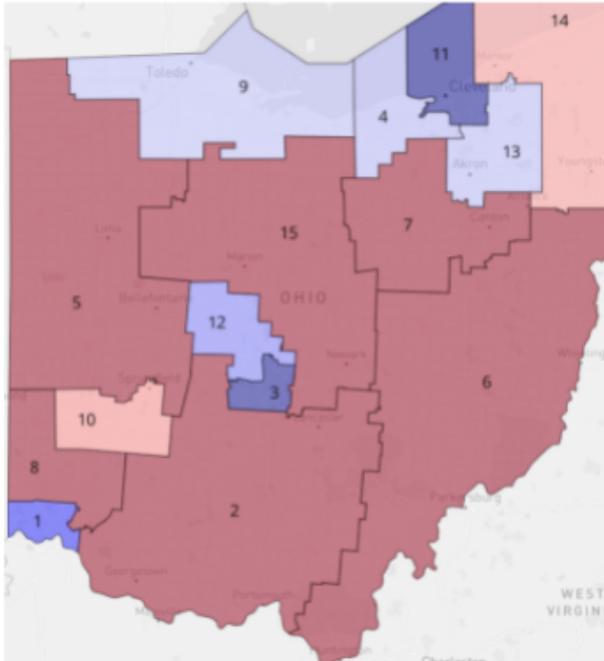
Summit and Portage Counties



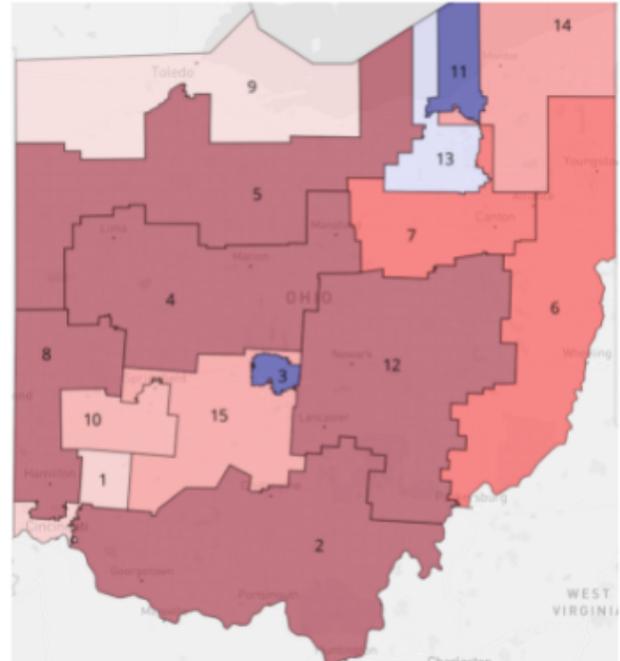
The Fair Districts Model Map recognizes that the Akron metropolitan area includes both **Summit and Portage Counties**. The area has a large and comprehensive transportation system that is anchored by two public transit agencies, METRO in Summit County and PARTA in Portage County. Eastern Summit and western Portage also share several universities and hospitals that bring a wealth of cultural, economic, and educational opportunities.

- [Summit County](#) Community Map 1
- [Summit County](#) Community Map 2
- [Portage/Stow](#) Community Map

Fair Districts Model Map



Sub Senate Bill 258



Recommendation

The Fair Districts Model Map keeps political subdivisions and communities together and more accurately reflects the partisan balance of the state of Ohio. This map could lead to nine Republicans and six Democrats going to Washington or eight Republicans and seven Democrats.

Fair Districts Ohio urges you to adopt this non-partisan, constitutionally compliant map that prioritizes voters. Remember that Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved a new process to put an end to partisan gerrymandering.

Endnotes

1. The Fair Districts Mapping Competition Advisory Committee includes:

- Jeff Cabot, Fair Districts = Fair Elections treasurer, member of Columbus City Council's Residential Redistricting Commission, former executive director of Kids Voting of Central Ohio.
- Brian Glassman, Professor Emeritus, Cleveland Marshall College of Law
- Sam Gresham, Jr., chair of Common Cause Ohio, former CEO of the Columbus Urban League, and former executive director for the Ohio Commission on African-American Males
- Ann Henkener, League of Women Voters of Ohio
- Brad Henry, CEO of EduTechnologic, LLC, and Founder of Get The Vote Out.
- Bill Hershey, former Columbus Bureau Chief of the Dayton Daily News
- Joan Lawrence, former state representative, former director of the Ohio Department of Aging, and former president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio
- David Niven, Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati Dept. of Political Science
- Shari Obrenski, President of the Cleveland Teachers Union
- Stephanie Casey Pierce, Postdoctoral Scholar, John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University
- Deepak Puri, Co-Founder, and CEO of Democracy Labs
- Maggie Scotece, disability rights and civil rights attorney
- Katy Shanahan, Ohio State Director, All On The Line
- Rev. Jack Sullivan, Jr., executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches
- Raju Sunny, Director of Technology at Parsec Solutions
- Andre Washington, Midwest Regional Representative & Ohio State President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

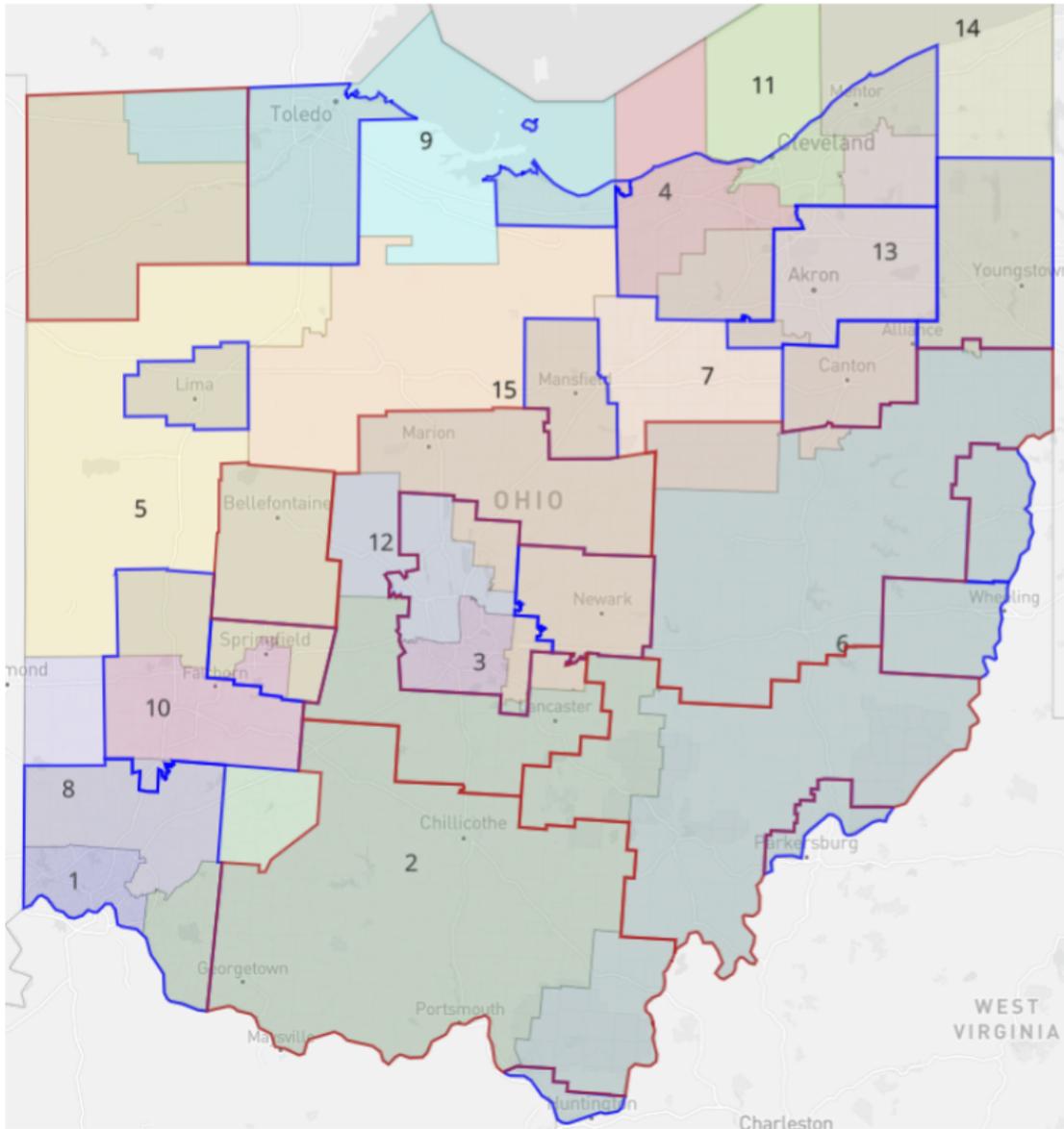
2. Public input: Fair Districts organized webinars for the public in which the winners reviewed their maps and accepted suggestions for improvements. At the Oct. 20 session, the winners unveiled new district lines and explained how they addressed the concerns the public shared. Session 1 (Oct 13): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcJsq4xyZwo&t=1052s>; Session 2 (Oct 20): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhE_6d7gmU8

3. Regional Planning Organizations. The boundaries of planning organizations and the membership of regional councils inherently reflect individual communities throughout Ohio except they do so on a regional basis. Many of these organizations are directly involved in transportation infrastructure planning and water infrastructure planning; two vital aspects of not only community interest, but interests and competitiveness of the entire state. Aligning

Congressional districts with planning organization jurisdictions to the maximum extent possible provides the ability to better align the goals and objectives of congressional representatives and the communities they represent.

Overlay of Regional Planning Organizations on Fair Districts Ohio Model Map

Combined Regional Planning Organizations



- MPO
- RPO

Addendum - SB 286 Model Congressional Map Testimony (02/08/2022)

4. Community Mapping. This written testimony includes links to some of the community maps made by citizen mapmakers. Community members created maps using [Districtr](#) to identify where these people live and work, where their children go to school, where they shop and eat, their parks and trails, their community centers, their places of worship. These community maps tell stories of community concerns, what they consider important to them, and how decisions should be made when drawing district lines that will affect their day to day lives.