

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF OHIO, *et al.*,

Relators,

v.

OHIO REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 2021-1193

BRIA BENNETT, *et al.*,

Relators,

v.

OHIO REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 2021-1198

THE OHIO ORGANIZING
COLLABORATIVE, *et al.*,

Relators,

v.

OHIO REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 2021-1210

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OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021
REGIONAL HEARING - YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Call to Order & Attendance
- III. Overview
- IV. Public Testimony
- V. Adjourn

PROPONENT/OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Holly Oyster
21370 Harrisburg Westville Rd.
Alliance, OH. 44601

[Alliance, OH, August 23, 2021] —I am here today to remind the commission that the work they are doing right now will directly affect me and my neighbors for the coming decade. If the districts they draw are unfair, their actions will directly result in the negation of my rights as an Ohioan and an American to have my voice heard.

In the last 10 years I have felt unrepresented and ignored by my elected officials. I am active locally helping to organize volunteers interested in supporting progressive issues. I came to this out of frustration that policies being instituted by my government were completely opposed to everything I believe in. I have reached out to my representatives, about issues that are important to me, about bills that are up for consideration, about topics I feel should be addressed. The only response I have ever received was a form letter, and that was a rare occurrence.

As a civically engaged Ohioan, it is my responsibility to pay attention to what my government is doing, and if the policies that polls are showing that Ohioans support are being passed and implemented by my government. There are so many issues about which I care deeply that are not being supported by my government. For example, various recent polls showed that 51.3% - or more of Ohioans support abortion remaining legal in most cases. However, our state government continues to pass unconstitutional laws that limit access to women's healthcare, and repeatedly pass laws criminalizing abortion and those who provide the procedures. This is a failure of Democracy.

According to the most recent data I have been able to find, Ohio is made up of approximately 46% democrats, and 53% Republicans. However, our statehouse has republican supermajorities in both house: Republicans hold 64.6 % of the seats in the Ohio Statehouse, and 75.8% of the seats in the Ohio State Senate. My Ohio senator does not care what I think, that I am desperate for Universal Healthcare, that our education system is an embarrassment that robs our children of a decent education. He knows his job is secure, because the district he nominally "represents" is drawn in such a way that my voice is ignored, lumping me together with those with whom I have zero in common. My representative doesn't care that I want a vaccine mandate, that I'm worried about the health of my immune-compromised teenage

daughter, that I'm horrified that our schools don't teach comprehensive sex ed, instead teaching abstinence only despite hundreds of studies showing such curricula don't reduce teen pregnancy or the spread of STDs. He doesn't represent me.

So far the process for redistricting has been confusing and vague. Despite an overwhelming majority of Ohioans twice voting in support of fair districts, I have little to no confidence that fair districts will be drawn. I am here to help ensure that the wishes of Ohioans are followed. Who is working on the maps right now? When will we see them? We need time to be able to access those maps and determine if they are a fair representation of Ohioans, and time is running out.

I need to know that this process is going result in fair representation, as mandated by the United States Constitution. I need to know that my vote will matter. I want to know that my community will be included with those that have similar life experience to me – I live in Mahoning County, but I have an Alliance address. Most of Alliance is in Stark County. If the district is drawn along the county line, I will be voting with people I have almost no connection with. I need my community to be in a district with those I shop, do business, and whose kids my kids go to school. Anything else means my voice, and the voices of so many of my neighbors, will be silenced.

Ohio Redistricting Commission Public Hearing Testimony
August 23, 2021
John A. Bocchieri

The Honorable Governor Mike Dewine
The Honorable Speaker of the House Robert Cupp
The Honorable Senate President Matt Huffman
The Honorable Senator Vernon Sykes
The Honorable House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes
The Honorable Keith Faber
The Honorable Frank LaRose

Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, thank you for bringing a public hearing to Mahoning County and performing your Constitutional duties in the open so we might have a discussion about the political future of this community.

I have served with all of you at some point over the last 21 years whether in the State Legislature or in our nation's Capital, and I've known all of you be honorable in your public service and its approach. We passed legislation together and worked together to help Ohioans after natural disasters and in their time of greatest need. I acknowledge your honorable service.

However, when it comes to campaigns, Ohioans acknowledge that the process which Legislative and Congressional districts are drawn, and have been drawn, demonstrate sheer political muscle versus fairness. Simply put, past maps have not been drawn as honorably as your individual service. Past commissions 'packed and cracked' communities like mine lumping vast numbers of voters into districts that do not follow the fairness model which comprises compactness, keeping cities whole and representational fairness.

It is clear in Ohio that politicians are picking the people they want to represent versus people picking the politicians they want representing them in government. It stems from this process which in the days of Governor Jim Rhodes and Speaker Vern Riffe saw maps drawn with pencils after much consensus, to maps that are now drawn with laser 3D printers to build from the ground up a political district for the majority party.

This process shouldn't be about politics, but about fairness. Don't get me wrong both Democrats and Republicans are doing it around the country – but Ohio hasn't witnessed fairness in decades.

When first elected to the Ohio House, the legislative map for the 57th District stretched from the suburbs of Youngstown to Carrollton, in Carroll County. In 2002 when the new map was redrawn, the 61st Ohio House District extended further south including slivers of Mahoning County, Stark County, all of Carroll County and a sliver of Tuscarawas County all the way to New

Philadelphia, Ohio. The most populous county in that redrawn district was the sliver of Stark County now included in the 61st District. **It appeared the district was drawn to weaken the representative's political influence versus strengthening the political voice of citizens in the district.**

In 2002 while in the Ohio House, the majority eliminated the Congressional District of then Congressman Jim Traficant. Now that was an easy political move because Congressman Trafficant had just been convicted of a felony and subsequently removed from his seat by a vote of his peers in the US House of Representatives. However, the voices of Valley residents were now packed together into the 6th Congressional District comprising 12 counties, one county wide all the way down the Ohio River to Portsmouth, in Scioto county. Speaker Larry Householder often referred to this district as the "Sliver on the River." Mahoning County, the tenth most populous county,¹ now was cracked and packed into smaller communities in an unfamiliar configuration drawn for political considerations and not for the needs of its citizens.

There are some who suggest that the 2002-2012 map was fairer because I won a seat in Congress in the 16th Congressional District, a district that hadn't seen a Democrat elected in nearly 60 years. However, political reality soon set in after the 2010 election when all the districts that saw different representatives soon flipped back to their original configurations, or their intended political representation.

In fact, the League of Women Voters Ohio and Common Cause of Ohio identified an important fact in the 2012 map.

"Not only were politicians choosing their voters, but redistricting was used to maximize political contributions. This is most obvious in the 16th Congressional District where a puppet shaped peninsula was carved into Canton and attached to the District. The total population in this peninsula was zero – no other portion of Canton is in the 16th District. The zero-population area was attached to the 16th District because it contains the Timken Manufacturing plant and their corporate headquarters. Those connected with Timken are major campaign contributors to Congressman *Jim Renacci*...keeping the plant in his district gave these contributors a reason to continue contributing to Congressman Renacci."²

Now there was no coincidence about that political move – however I will draw your attention to that same 2012 map, a little nodule extending from the cracked and packed 13th

¹ *Ohio County Profiles*, Ohio Department of Development,
www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_029023.pdf.

² "Ohio's Gerrymandering Problem: Why Haven't We Fixed This Yet?" *Ohio's Gerrymandering Problem*, League of Women Voters of Ohio and Common Cause Ohio,
my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/ohios_gerrymandering_prob

Congressional District that extended into Stark County. The district ultimately would be won by Congressman Tim Ryan however the majority conveniently drew my home in Alliance into his Congressional District attempting to pit us against each other. No other part of Stark County is in the 13th Congressional District.

My plea to you today is stop this madness. What I have learned by both winning and losing elections is that people want their elected representatives to reduce the political fighting and maximize their voices in our capital. This cannot be achieved when partisans draw districts that favor political gains instead of gaining influence for citizens of Ohio. The number of wave elections over the last 15 years is testimony in itself to citizens displeasure at this very process. Drawing districts where a politician just has to worry about winning their primary has reduced the effectiveness of our institutions. Sure it permits the majority to hold onto power, but it dilutes the discourse within these institutions and creates hyper-partisan rhetoric that weakens our ability to speak to each other.

Fairer district maps allow for consideration of opposing political views and the building of consensus, which is at the heart of our democracy. If we are truly about winning elections on ideas, then let our campaigns be about that instead of a predetermined map that was delivered to maximize political opportunities.

The data and the demographics support the premise that the Mahoning Valley deserves its own Congressional District and statehouse districts. Many of our citizens feel as if Columbus has forgotten about this region. You have the chance to demonstrate that fairer districts create fairer government for ALL of Ohio's citizens.

John Boccheri is a former State Legislator serving in both the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. He served in the 111th Congress in Ohio's 16th Congressional District. Presently he is a pilot, First Officer for United Airlines in Cleveland aboard the Boeing 737 and is a Colonel and C-17 pilot in the Air Force Reserve.

Redistricting in Ohio

Every ten years, Ohio must adopt new district maps for the purpose of electing members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, and the Ohio House of Representatives. This brief provides an overview of redistricting in Ohio, compares the separate constitutional processes for General Assembly and congressional redistricting, explains some essential district-drawing concepts, and summarizes several landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings concerning redistricting.

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Redistricting basics

Ohio elects its members of the U.S. House of Representatives, its state senators, and its state representatives from districts with roughly equal populations, giving each person’s vote the same amount of influence. Every ten years, Ohio must redraw its congressional and General Assembly districts based on the updated population data in order to maintain population equality between districts and, in some cases, to change the number of congressional districts to match the new number of representatives to which Ohio is entitled.



Congressional Districts
 2011-2021

The U.S. Census Bureau releases new population data for redistricting purposes by April 1 of each year ending in 1 (such as 2021), and the Ohio Constitution provides deadlines in the fall of that year to adopt new district maps (but see “**2020 U.S. Census delays**,” on page 8). The new maps must be in place in time to nominate congressional and General Assembly candidates in the primary election held

the next year. When that year is a presidential election year, candidates must file their papers based on the new district map as early as mid-December of the year ending in 1.¹

Redistricting processes at a glance

The state uses two separate processes for General Assembly and congressional redistricting. The voters approved a constitutional amendment implementing a new General Assembly redistricting process in November 2015, and a separate constitutional amendment prescribing a new congressional redistricting process in May 2018. The following table compares several major aspects of the processes. For detailed explanations of the General Assembly and congressional redistricting procedures, please see LSC's final analyses of H.J.R. 12 of the 130th General Assembly and S.J.R. 5 of the 132nd General Assembly, respectively.

General Assembly Districts	Congressional Districts
Who draws the districts	
Ohio Redistricting Commission	General Assembly
Required bipartisan vote	
Four of seven members of the Commission, including at least two members who represent each of the two largest political parties represented in the General Assembly	$\frac{3}{8}$ of the members of each chamber of the General Assembly, including at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the members of each of the two largest political parties represented in the chamber
Deadline to adopt a plan – see “2020 U.S. Census delays,” below	
September 1 of a year ending in 1	September 30 of a year ending in 1
Impasse procedure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The deadline is extended to September 15. ▪ If the Commission adopts the plan only by a simple majority vote, the plan must be replaced after four years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ohio Redistricting Commission must adopt a plan by a bipartisan vote by October 31. ▪ If the Commission fails to do so, the General Assembly must adopt a plan by November 30. ▪ If the General Assembly adopts the plan only by a simple majority vote, it must follow additional district standards, described below, and the plan must be replaced after four years.

¹ 13 United States Code (U.S.C.) 141(c); Ohio Constitution, Articles XI and XIX; and R.C. 3513.05. Ohio's current district maps are available from the Ohio Secretary of State [here](#).

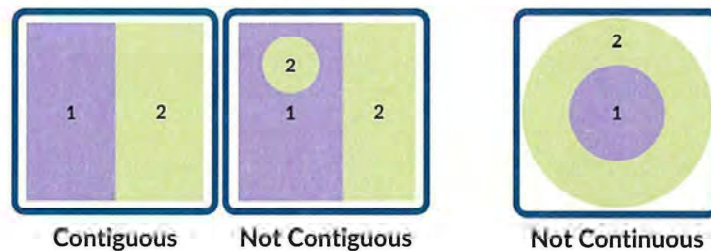
General Assembly Districts	Congressional Districts
Population equality between districts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District populations must be substantially equal. ▪ No district may contain a population of less than 95% or more than 105% of the ideal district population. 	<p>Not specified (see “Selected U.S. Supreme Court cases,” below)</p>
District standards considered	
<p>Mandatory standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contiguity ▪ Boundary must be a single nonintersecting continuous line ▪ Keep counties, municipal corporations, and townships whole, based on a specified procedure ▪ Each Senate district must consist of three contiguous House districts <p>Standards the Commission must attempt to follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party. ▪ The statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party must correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio. ▪ Districts must be compact. 	<p>General standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contiguity ▪ Boundary must be a single nonintersecting continuous line ▪ Compactness ▪ Keep counties, municipal corporations, and townships whole, based on a specified procedure <p>Standards the General Assembly must follow if it does not pass the plan by the required bipartisan vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The plan must not unduly favor or disfavor a political party or its incumbents. ▪ The plan must not unduly split governmental units, giving preference to keeping whole, in the order named, counties, then townships and municipal corporations. ▪ The General Assembly must attempt, but is not required, to draw districts that are compact.
Legal challenges	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ States that the Ohio Supreme Court has exclusive, original jurisdiction in any challenge. ▪ Requires the Ohio Redistricting Commission to amend the plan or adopt a new plan, as applicable, if a plan, district, or group of districts is ruled unconstitutional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ States that the Ohio Supreme Court has exclusive, original jurisdiction in any challenge. ▪ Requires that, if a plan, district, or group of districts is ruled unconstitutional, the General Assembly must adopt a new plan within 30 days after the appeal deadline expires or

General Assembly Districts	Congressional Districts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits a court from ordering the implementation of a plan not approved by the Commission. Prohibits a court from ordering the Commission to adopt a particular plan or to draw a particular district. Prescribes the available remedies in the event that the Court determines that a General Assembly district plan adopted by the Commission does not comply with the constitutional district standards. 	<p>after the order is issued, if it is not appealable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the Ohio Redistricting Commission to adopt a plan not later than 30 days after the General Assembly’s deadline, if the General Assembly misses the deadline. Requires the new plan to remedy any legal defects, but to include no other changes.

District-drawing concepts

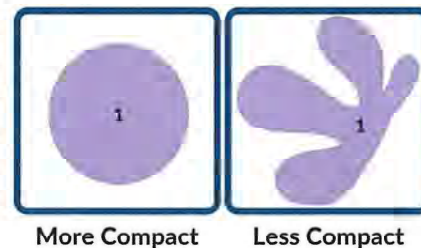
Contiguity and continuous boundary lines

Every congressional and General Assembly district in Ohio must be contiguous, meaning that it is a single, unbroken shape, with no “islands” of territory that do not touch the rest of the district. Each district’s boundary also must be a single nonintersecting continuous line. This standard prevents, for example, the creation of “donut” districts, with one district entirely surrounding another.²



Compactness

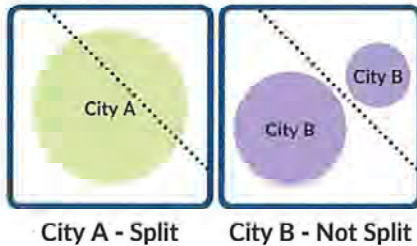
A district is considered compact if it has a minimal distance between all parts of its territory. Multiple methods exist to measure a district’s compactness, such as calculating the total length of its perimeter (a shorter perimeter meaning a more compact district), or calculating the average distance between locations on the outer edges of the district and the center of the district (a shorter average distance meaning a more compact district).



² Ohio Const., art. XI, sec. 3(B)(3) and art. XIX, sec. 2(B)(3).

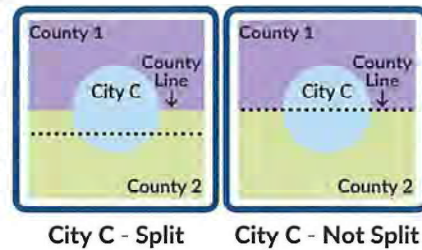
Under the Ohio Constitution, the Ohio Redistricting Commission must attempt to draw compact General Assembly districts, but it is not explicitly required to do so. On the other hand, congressional districts must be compact, except that under the modified district standards that apply if the General Assembly fails to pass a district plan by the required bipartisan vote, the legislature must attempt to draw compact districts, but is not required to.³

Keeping political subdivisions whole



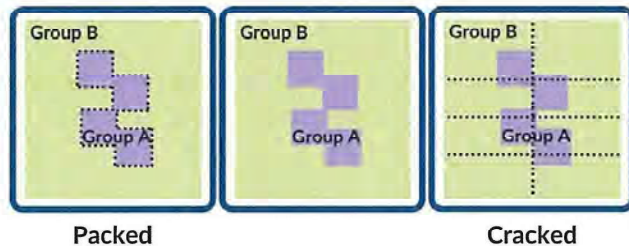
Ohio's congressional and General Assembly redistricting processes both place a priority on keeping counties, cities, villages, and townships together within one district. Splitting a political subdivision is necessary when, for example, its population exceeds the ideal district population. But, the Ohio Constitution includes procedures to minimize any unnecessary splitting.

Under both redistricting processes, a political subdivision is considered to be split if any contiguous portion of its territory is not contained entirely within one district. If a political subdivision has an island of territory that does not touch the rest of the subdivision, putting the island in a different district is not considered splitting the political subdivision (see above). Further, if a city, village, or township has territory in more than one county, drawing the district line along the county line is not considered splitting the city, village, or township.⁴



Packing and cracking

Two district-drawing practices, commonly called packing and cracking, can give one group less influence than another. At one extreme, when a group is “packed” into a single district, it makes up a supermajority within the district, but is less able to influence the outcome of elections outside that district. Conversely, when a group is “cracked” among many districts, it makes up only a minority of the vote in each district, and is less able to influence the outcome of elections in any district. In some redistricting cases, packing and cracking have given rise to claims of unlawful gerrymandering (see “**Selected U.S. Supreme Court cases,**” below).



³ Ohio Const., art. XI, sec. 6 and art. XIX, secs. 1(F)(3)(c) and 2(B)(2).

⁴ Ohio Const., art. XI, sec. 3(D) and art. XIX, sec. 2(C).

Political considerations

The Ohio Constitution includes two separate standards for the inclusion of political considerations in the drawing of district maps. For a General Assembly district plan, the Ohio Redistricting Commission must attempt to adopt a plan (1) that is not drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party, and (2) in which the statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party corresponds closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio.

For a congressional district map, the Ohio Constitution specifies that if, under the impasse procedure, the General Assembly passes a redistricting plan by a simple majority vote instead of by the required bipartisan vote, the plan must not unduly favor or disfavor a political party or its incumbents.⁵

Majority-minority districts

The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) prohibit any district plan from denying or abridging citizens' right to vote on account of race, color, or status as a member of a language minority group. The U.S. Supreme Court has developed a test to determine whether a district map dilutes minority voting strength in violation of the VRA by cracking a minority population among multiple districts, as described above. Essentially, the test examines whether (1) the minority group is "sufficiently numerous and compact to form a majority in a single-member district," (2) the minority group is "politically cohesive," meaning its members tend to vote similarly, and (3) "the majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it . . . usually to defeat the minority's preferred candidate."⁶

In order to remedy a case of minority vote dilution, a court may require the adoption of a majority-minority district, in which a sufficient population of a minority group exists to allow the group to elect its candidate of choice. Currently, no court has expressly required Ohio to create majority-minority congressional or General Assembly districts. A state may draw majority-minority districts voluntarily in order to remedy past discrimination. However, in some circumstances, the courts have overturned plans that included voluntarily created majority-minority districts because creating those districts amounted to unconstitutional racial gerrymandering.⁷

Other common concepts

The Ohio Redistricting Commission and the General Assembly might consider other district-drawing concepts in creating district maps, so long as the constitutional requirements are met. For example, some states use criteria such as preserving communities of interest in a single district or maintaining previous district lines to the extent feasible. The National Conference of

⁵ Ohio Const., art. XI, sec. 6 and art. XIX, sec. 1(C)(3)(a) and (F)(3)(a).

⁶ 52 U.S.C. 10301; *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30, 50 (1986); and *Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 264 (1977).

⁷ *Voinovich v. Quilter*, 507 U.S. 146 (1993); *Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952 (1996); *Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899 (1996); and *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama*, 135 S.Ct. 1257 (2015).

State Legislatures offers several useful references on these topics, including a 50-state survey of redistricting criteria and *The Redistricting Glossary*.⁸

Selected U.S. Supreme Court cases

The following cases represent a sample of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings on congressional and state legislative redistricting. This list is intended to provide a basic foundation for understanding some of the legal discussions surrounding redistricting. However, the list is not exhaustive, and it does not include later rulings that have added nuance to these decisions.

Population equality

- *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1 (1964) – Held that the population of congressional districts in the same state must be as nearly equal as practicable.
- *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964) – Specified that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment requires states to draw legislative districts that are substantially equal in population.
- *Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725 (1983) – Held that congressional districts must be mathematically equal in population, except as necessary to achieve a legitimate state objective.

Racial and language minorities

- *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986) – Held that the VRA requires that a majority-minority district be drawn to remedy minority vote dilution if (1) the racial or language minority group is “sufficiently numerous and compact to form a majority in a single-member district,” (2) the minority group is “politically cohesive,” meaning its members tend to vote similarly, and (3) the “majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it . . . usually to defeat the minority’s preferred candidate.”
- *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993) – Held that districts violate the Equal Protection Clause if they cannot be explained on grounds other than race.
- *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900 (1995) – Specified that a district is unconstitutionally racially gerrymandered if race is the “predominant” factor in drawing its lines.
- *Bush v. Vera*, 517 U.S. 952 (1996) – Found that if race was the predominant factor in drawing a district, the district cannot be justified by the VRA unless there is a strong basis in evidence that drawing the district was reasonably necessary to avoid denying or abridging equal voting rights.

Partisan gerrymandering

- *Rucho v. Common Cause*, 139 S.Ct. 2484 (2019) – Found that partisan gerrymandering represents a political question on which the federal courts cannot rule because there is no credible way to define and measure fairness in the political context.

⁸ National Conference of State Legislatures, *NCSL’s Redistricting Webpages*.

2020 U.S. Census delays

The Ohio Constitution requires Ohio to use population data from the U.S. Census to draw General Assembly and congressional districts, except that if the federal census is unavailable, the General Assembly may designate another data source by law.⁹ Federal law requires the Census Bureau to provide the states with the necessary population data for redistricting by April 1 of a year ending in 1.¹⁰ After receiving the data in April, Ohio's contractors typically are able to incorporate the data into a computerized map drawing database and deliver the database in July, allowing state officials to begin creating proposed district maps.

However, because of delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau announced that it could not provide the population data to the states by April 1, 2021. The Bureau promised to provide the data in a legacy format by "mid-to-late August 2021," and in a newer format by September 30, 2021.¹¹ Ohio's contractors are able to use the legacy format data to create the map drawing database, but still will need time after the data arrives to complete and deliver the database. This delay could create significant difficulties in meeting Ohio's constitutional redistricting deadlines in 2021.

⁹ Ohio Const., art. XI, secs. 3(A) and 7 and art. XIX, sec. 2(A).

¹⁰ 13 U.S.C. 141(c).

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, *U.S. Census Bureau Statement on Release of Legacy Format Summary Redistricting Data File* (March 15, 2021).

REPEALED. County and township treasuries.

§5 (1851, rep. 1933)

REPEALED. What officers may be removed.

§6 (1851, rep. 1933)

REPEALED. Local taxation.

§7 (1851, rep. 1933)

Article XI: Apportionment

Persons responsible for apportionment of state for members of General Assembly.

§1 (A) The Ohio redistricting commission shall be responsible for the redistricting of this state for the general assembly. The commission shall consist of the following seven members:

- (1) The governor;
- (2) The auditor of state;
- (3) The secretary of state;
- (4) One person appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (5) One person appointed by the legislative leader of the largest political party in the house of representatives of which the speaker of the house of representatives is not a member;
- (6) One person appointed by the president of the senate; and

(7) One person appointed by the legislative leader of the largest political party in the senate of which the president of the senate is not a member.

The legislative leaders in the senate and the house of representatives of each of the two largest political parties represented in the general assembly, acting jointly by political party, shall appoint a member of the commission to serve as a co-chairperson of the commission.

(B)(1) Unless otherwise specified in this article, a simple majority of the commission members shall be required for any action by the commission.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2)(b) of this section, a majority vote of the members of the commission, including at least one member of the commission who is a member of each of the two largest political parties represented in the general assembly, shall be required to do any of the following:

- (i) Adopt rules of the commission;
 - (ii) Hire staff for the commission;
 - (iii) Expend funds.
- (b) If the commission is unable to agree, by the vote required under division (B)(2)(a) of this section, on the manner in which funds should be expended, each co-chairperson of the commission shall have the authority to expend one-half of the funds that have been appropriated to the commission.
- (3) The affirmative vote of four members of the commission, including at least two members of the commission

who represent each of the two largest political parties represented in the general assembly shall be required to adopt any general assembly district plan. For the purpose of this division, a member of the commission shall be considered to represent a political party if the member was appointed to the commission by a member of that political party or if, in the case of the governor, the auditor of state, or the secretary of state, the member is a member of that political party.

(C) At the first meeting of the commission, which the governor shall convene only in a year ending in the numeral one, except as provided in Sections 8 and 9 of this article, the commission shall set a schedule for the adoption of procedural rules for the operation of the commission.

The commission shall release to the public a proposed general assembly district plan for the boundaries for each of the ninety-nine house of representatives districts and the thirty-three senate districts. The commission shall draft the proposed plan in the manner prescribed in this article. Before adopting, but after introducing, a proposed plan, the commission shall conduct a minimum of three public hearings across the state to present the proposed plan and shall seek public input regarding the proposed plan. All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public. Meetings shall be broadcast by electronic means of transmission using a medium readily accessible by the general public.

The commission shall adopt a final general assembly district plan not later than the first day of September of a

year ending in the numeral one. After the commission adopts a final plan, the commission shall promptly file the plan with the secretary of state. Upon filing with the secretary of state, the plan shall become effective.

Four weeks after the adoption of a general assembly district plan, the commission shall be automatically dissolved.

(D) The general assembly shall be responsible for making the appropriations it determines necessary in order for the commission to perform its duties under this article. (1967, am. 2015)

Ratio of representation in house and senate.

§2 Each house of representatives district shall be entitled to a single representative in each general assembly. Each senate district shall be entitled to a single senator in each general assembly. (1967, am. 2015)

Population of each House of Representatives district.

§3 (A) The whole population of the state, as determined by the federal decennial census or, if such is unavailable, such other basis as the general assembly may direct, shall be divided by the number "ninety-nine" and by the number "thirty-three" and the quotients shall be the ratio of representation in the house of representatives and in the senate, respectively, for ten years next succeeding such redistricting.

(B) A general assembly district plan shall comply with all of the requirements

of division (B) of this section.

(1) The population of each house of representatives district shall be substantially equal to the ratio of representation in the house of representatives, and the population of each senate district shall be substantially equal to the ratio of representation in the senate, as provided in division (A) of this section. In no event shall any district contain a population of less than ninety-five per cent nor more than one hundred five per cent of the applicable ratio of representation.

(2) Any general assembly district plan adopted by the commission shall comply with all applicable provisions of the constitutions of Ohio and the United States and of federal law.

(3) Every general assembly district shall be composed of contiguous territory, and the boundary of each district shall be a single nonintersecting continuous line.

(C) House of representatives districts shall be created and numbered in the following order of priority, to the extent that such order is consistent with the foregoing standards:

(1) Proceeding in succession from the largest to the smallest, each county containing population greater than one hundred five per cent of the ratio of representation in the house of representatives shall be divided into as many house of representatives districts as it has whole ratios of representation. Any fraction of the population in excess of a whole ratio shall be a part of only one adjoining house of representatives district.

(2) Each county containing population of not less than ninety-five per cent of the ratio of representation in the house of representatives nor more than one hundred five per cent of the ratio shall be designated a representative district.

(3) The remaining territory of the state shall be divided into representative districts by combining the areas of counties, municipal corporations, and townships. Where feasible, no county shall be split more than once.

(D)(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (D)(1)(b) and (c) of this section, a county, municipal corporation, or township is considered to be split if any contiguous portion of its territory is not contained entirely within one district.

(b) If a municipal corporation or township has territory in more than one county, the contiguous portion of that municipal corporation or township that lies in each county shall be considered to be a separate municipal corporation or township for the purposes of this section.

(c) If a municipal corporation or township that is located in a county that contains a municipal corporation or township that has a population of more than one ratio of representation is split for the purpose of complying with division (E)(1)(a) or (b) of this section, each portion of that municipal corporation or township shall be considered to be a separate municipal corporation or township for the purposes of this section.

(2) Representative districts shall be drawn so as to split the smallest possible

number of municipal corporations and townships whose contiguous portions contain a population of more than fifty per cent, but less than one hundred per cent, of one ratio of representation.

(3) Where the requirements of divisions (B), (C), and (D) of this section cannot feasibly be attained by forming a representative district from whole municipal corporations and townships, not more than one municipal corporation or township may be split per representative district.

(E)(1) If it is not possible for the commission to comply with all of the requirements of divisions (B), (C), and (D) of this section in drawing a particular representative district, the commission shall take the first action listed below that makes it possible for the commission to draw that district:

(a) Notwithstanding division (D)(3) of this section, the commission shall create the district by splitting two municipal corporations or townships whose contiguous portions do not contain a population of more than fifty per cent, but less than one hundred per cent, of one ratio of representation.

(b) Notwithstanding division (D)(2) of this section, the commission shall create the district by splitting a municipal corporation or township whose contiguous portions contain a population of more than fifty per cent, but less than one hundred per cent, of one ratio of representation.

(c) Notwithstanding division (C)(2) of this section, the commission shall create the district by splitting, once, a single county that contains a population

of not less than ninety-five per cent of the ratio of representation, but not more than one hundred five per cent of the ratio of representation.

(d) Notwithstanding division (C)(1) of this section, the commission shall create the district by including in two districts portions of the territory that remains after a county that contains a population of more than one hundred five per cent of the ratio of representation has been divided into as many house of representatives districts as it has whole ratios of representation.

(2) If the commission takes an action under division (E)(1) of this section, the commission shall include in the general assembly district plan a statement explaining which action the commission took under that division and the reason the commission took that action.

(3) If the commission complies with divisions (E)(1) and (2) of this section in drawing a district, the commission shall not be considered to have violated division (C)(1), (C)(2), (D)(2), or (D)(3) of this section, as applicable, in drawing that district, for the purpose of an analysis under division (D) of Section 9 of this article.

(1967, am. 2015)

Population of each Senate district.

§4 (A) Senate districts shall be composed of three contiguous house of representatives districts.

(B)(1) A county having at least one whole senate ratio of representation shall have as many senate districts wholly within the boundaries of the

county as it has whole senate ratios of representation. Any fraction of the population in excess of a whole ratio shall be a part of only one adjoining senate district.

(2) Counties having less than one senate ratio of representation, but at least one house of representatives ratio of representation, shall be part of only one senate district.

(3) If it is not possible for the commission to draw representative districts that comply with all of the requirements of this article and that make it possible for the commission to comply with all of the requirements of divisions (B)(1) and (2) of this section, the commission shall draw senate districts so as to commit the fewest possible violations of those divisions. If the commission complies with this division in drawing senate districts, the commission shall not be considered to have violated division (B)(1) or (2) of this section, as applicable, in drawing those districts, for the purpose of an analysis under division (D) of Section 9 of this article.

(C) The number of whole ratios of representation for a county shall be determined by dividing the population of the county by the ratio of representation in the senate determined under division (A) of Section 3 of this article.

(D) Senate districts shall be numbered from one through thirty-three and as provided in Section 5 of this article.
(1967, am. 2015)

Representation for each house and senate district.

§5 At any time the boundaries of senate districts are changed in any general assembly district plan made pursuant to any provision of this article, a senator whose term will not expire within two years of the time the plan becomes effective shall represent, for the remainder of the term for which the senator was elected, the senate district that contains the largest portion of the population of the district from which the senator was elected, and the district shall be given the number of the district from which the senator was elected. If more than one senator whose term will not so expire would represent the same district by following the provisions of this section, the plan shall designate which senator shall represent the district and shall designate which district the other senator or senators shall represent for the balance of their term or terms.
(1967, am. 2015)

Creation of district boundaries; change at end of decennial period.

§6 The Ohio redistricting commission shall attempt to draw a general assembly district plan that meets all of the following standards:

(A) No general assembly district plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party.

(B) The statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party shall correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio.

(C) General assembly districts shall be compact.

Nothing in this section permits the commission to violate the district standards described in Section 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 of this article.
(1967, am. 2015)

REPEALED. Provided additional senators for districts with a ratio of representation greater than one.

§6a
(1956, rep. 1967)

Boundary lines of House of Representatives districts.

§7 Notwithstanding the fact that boundaries of counties, municipal corporations, and townships within a district may be changed, district boundaries shall be created by using the boundaries of counties, municipal corporations, and townships as they exist at the time of the federal decennial census on which the redistricting is based, or, if unavailable, on such other basis as the general assembly has directed.
(1967, am. 2015)

Determination of number of House of Representatives districts within each county.

§8 (A)(1) If the Ohio redistricting commission fails to adopt a final general assembly district plan not later than the first day of September of a year ending in the numeral one, in accordance with Section 1 of this article, the commission shall introduce a proposed general assembly district plan by a simple majority vote of the

commission.

(2) After introducing a proposed general assembly district plan under division (A)(1) of this section, the commission shall hold a public hearing concerning the proposed plan, at which the public may offer testimony and at which the commission may adopt amendments to the proposed plan. Members of the commission should attend the hearing; however, only a quorum of the members of the commission is required to conduct the hearing.

(3) After the hearing described in division (A)(2) of this section is held, and not later than the fifteenth day of September of a year ending in the numeral one, the commission shall adopt a final general assembly district plan, either by the vote required to adopt a plan under division (B)(3) of Section 1 of this article or by a simple majority vote of the commission.

(B) If the commission adopts a final general assembly district plan in accordance with division (A)(3) of this section by the vote required to adopt a plan under division (B)(3) of Section 1 of this article, the plan shall take effect upon filing with the secretary of state and shall remain effective until the next year ending in the numeral one, except as provided in Section 9 of this article.

(C)(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(1)(b) of this section, if the commission adopts a final general assembly district plan in accordance with division (A)(3) of this section by a simple majority vote of the commission, and not by the vote required to adopt a plan under division (B)(3) of Section 1 of this article, the plan shall take

effect upon filing with the secretary of state and shall remain effective until two general elections for the house of representatives have occurred under the plan.

(b) If the commission adopts a final general assembly district plan in accordance with division (A)(3) of this section by a simple majority vote of the commission, and not by the vote required to adopt a plan under division (B) of Section 1 of this article, and that plan is adopted to replace a plan that ceased to be effective under division (C)(1)(a) of this section before a year ending in the numeral one, the plan adopted under this division shall take effect upon filing with the secretary of state and shall remain effective until a year ending in the numeral one, except as provided in Section 9 of this article.

(2) A final general assembly district plan adopted under division (C)(1)(a) or (b) of this section shall include a statement explaining what the commission determined to be the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio and the manner in which the statewide proportion of districts in the plan whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party corresponds closely to those preferences, as described in division (B) of Section 6 of this article. At the time the plan is adopted, a member of the commission who does not vote in favor of the plan may submit a declaration of the member's opinion concerning the statement included with the plan.

(D) After a general assembly district plan adopted under division (C)(1)(a)

of this section ceases to be effective, and not earlier than the first day of July of the year following the year in which the plan ceased to be effective, the commission shall be reconstituted as provided in Section 1 of this article, convene, and adopt a new general assembly district plan in accordance with this article, to be used until the next time for redistricting under this article. The commission shall draw the new general assembly district plan using the same population and county, municipal corporation, and township boundary data as were used to draw the previous plan adopted under division (C) of this section.

(1967, am. 2015)

When population of county is fraction of ratio of representation.

§9 (A) The supreme court of Ohio shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases arising under this article.

(B) In the event that any section of this constitution relating to redistricting, any general assembly district plan made by the Ohio redistricting commission, or any district is determined to be invalid by an unappealed final order of a court of competent jurisdiction then, notwithstanding any other provisions of this constitution, the commission shall be reconstituted as provided in Section 1 of this article, convene, and ascertain and determine a general assembly district plan in conformity with such provisions of this constitution as are then valid, including establishing terms of office and election of members of the general assembly from districts designated in the plan, to be used until the next time for redistricting under

this article in conformity with such provisions of this constitution as are then valid.

(C) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution or any law regarding the residence of senators and representatives, a general assembly district plan made pursuant to this section shall allow thirty days for persons to change residence in order to be eligible for election.

(D)(1) No court shall order, in any circumstance, the implementation or enforcement of any general assembly district plan that has not been approved by the commission in the manner prescribed by this article.

(2) No court shall order the commission to adopt a particular general assembly district plan or to draw a particular district.

(3) If the supreme court of Ohio determines that a general assembly district plan adopted by the commission does not comply with the requirements of Section 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 of this article, the available remedies shall be as follows:

(a) If the court finds that the plan contains one or more isolated violations of those requirements, the court shall order the commission to amend the plan to correct the violation.

(b) If the court finds that it is necessary to amend not fewer than six house of representatives districts to correct violations of those requirements, to amend not fewer than two senate districts to correct violations of those requirements, or both, the court shall

declare the plan invalid and shall order the commission to adopt a new general assembly district plan in accordance with this article.

(c) If, in considering a plan adopted under division (C) of Section 8 of this article, the court determines that both of the following are true, the court shall order the commission to adopt a new general assembly district plan in accordance with this article:

(i) The plan significantly violates those requirements in a manner that materially affects the ability of the plan to contain districts whose voters favor political parties in an overall proportion that corresponds closely to the statewide political party preferences of the voters of Ohio, as described in division (B) of Section 6 of this article.

(ii) The statewide proportion of districts in the plan whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party does not correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio.

(1967, am. 2015)

Severability provision.

§10 The various provisions of this article are intended to be severable, and the invalidity of one or more of such provisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

(1967, am. 2015)

REPEALED. Senate districts.

§11

(1967, rep. 2015)

REPEALED. Change of district boundaries of senate districts.

§12 (1967, rep. 2015)

REPEALED. Jurisdiction of Supreme Court, effect of determination of unconstitutionality; apportionment.

§13 (1967, rep. 2015)

REPEALED. District boundaries until January 1, 1973.

§14 (1967, rep. 2015)

REPEALED. Severability provision.

§15 (1967, rep. 2015)

Article XII: Finance and Taxation

Poll taxes prohibited.

§1 No poll tax shall ever be levied in this state, or service required, which may be commuted in money or other thing of value.

(1851, am. 1912)

Limitation on tax rate; exemption.

§2 No property, taxed according to value, shall be so taxed in excess of one per cent of its true value in money for all state and local purposes, but laws may be passed authorizing additional taxes to be levied outside of such limitation, either when approved by at least a

majority of the electors of the taxing district voting on such proposition, or when provided for by the charter of a municipal corporation. Land and improvements thereon shall be taxed by uniform rule according to value, except that laws may be passed to reduce taxes by providing for a reduction in value of the homestead of permanently and totally disabled residents, residents sixty-five years of age and older, and residents sixty years of age or older who are surviving spouses of deceased residents who were sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled and receiving a reduction in the value of their homestead at the time of death, provided the surviving spouse continues to reside in a qualifying homestead, and providing for income and other qualifications to obtain such reduction. Without limiting the general power, subject to the provisions of Article I of this constitution, to determine the subjects and methods of taxation or exemptions therefrom, general laws may be passed to exempt burying grounds, public school houses, houses used exclusively for public worship, institutions used exclusively for charitable purposes, and public property used exclusively for any public purpose, but all such laws shall be subject to alteration or repeal; and the value of all property so exempted shall, from time to time, be ascertained and published as may be directed by law.

(1851, am. 1906, 1912, 1918, 1929, 1933, 1970, 1974, 1990)

CONVENING OF THE OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

AGENDA
August 6, 2021

1. Governor calls meeting to order.
2. Presentation of any member appointments to the Ohio Redistricting Commission; order that any new appointments be entered in record of proceedings.
3. Administration of the Oath of Office.
 - a. Governor administers the Oath of Office to Members of Commission.
 - b. Secretary of State then administers the Oath of Office to Governor.
4. Roll Call; Governor declares quorum present.
4. Filing of Certificate of Compliance with public meeting notice provisions of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.
5. Presentation of Co-Chairperson appointments to the Ohio Redistricting Commission; order that any new appointments be entered in record of proceedings.
6. Governor turns the meeting over to the Co-Chairpersons.
7. Scheduling

OATH OF OFFICE

I, _____, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office, as a Member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission on which I serve pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution. This I shall do as I shall answer unto God.

(Appointee)

**STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN**

Personally sworn to before me, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio pursuant to Revised Code Section 3.24 in Franklin County and subscribed to in my presence this 6th day of August, 2021.

Mike DeWine
Governor of the State of Ohio



Matt Huffman

Senate President

Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-7584

To: Vincent Keeran, Clerk
From: Senator Matt Huffman, President
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: Appointment to Ohio Redistricting Commission

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A)(6) of the Ohio Constitution, the President of the Senate appoints the following individual to the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Matthew C. Huffman

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A) of the Ohio Constitution, the President of the Ohio Senate hereby joins with the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives in appointing the following individual to serve as the co-chairperson of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Robert R. Cupp

cc: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Ohio Auditor Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Ohio House of Representatives Minority Leader Emilia Sykes



Senator **Kenny Yuko**
Minority Leader
25th District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-4583
614-466-6660 Fax

Memorandum

To: Senate Clerk Vincent Keeran
From: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Date: August 5, 2021
Re: Ohio Redistricting Commission Co-Chair Appointment

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 (A) of the Ohio Constitution, I hereby join the Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives in appointing state Senator Vernon Sykes to serve as co-chairperson of the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

CC:

Governor Mike DeWine
Senate President Matt Huffman
Speaker Robert Cupp
Auditor of State Keith Faber
Secretary of State Frank LaRose
House Clerk Bradley Young



Matt Huffman
Senate President

Statehouse
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Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-7584

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From: Senator Matt Huffman, President

Date: August 4, 2021

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cc: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Ohio Auditor Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Ohio House of Representatives Minority Leader Emilia Sykes



**Representative Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader**

August 4, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A)(5) of the Ohio Constitution, I am using my appointing authority to appoint myself to the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

I look forward to an open and transparent process during our important work of creating fair districts for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Strong Sykes".

Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader
Ohio House District 34

cc: Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman
Speaker of Ohio House Bob Cupp
Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Brad Young, House Clerk

www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Office: 614-466-3100
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
Fax: 614-719-6968
Email: Rep34@ohiohouse.gov

PRR_0864



Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
25th Senate District
(614) 466-4583

Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

August 2, 2021

Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor
Riffe Center
77 S High St 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio Redistricting Commission

Dear Governor DeWine,

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 (A) of the Ohio Constitution, I hereby appoint state Senator Vernon Sykes to serve on the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We look forward to working with you in an open, transparent manner to draw maps that respect the wishes of Ohio's voters and minimize partisan gerrymandering in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenny Yuko".

KENNY YUKO
Minority Leader
Ohio Senate

CC:

Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman
Speaker of Ohio House Bob Cupp
Minority Leader of Ohio House Emilia Sykes
Ohio Senate Clerk Vincent Keeran

ROBERT R. CUPP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 04



77 S. HIGH STREET, 14TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43125
REP04@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

To: Brad Young, Clerk
From: Robert R. Cupp, Speaker of the House
Date: August 3, 2021
Re: Appointment – Ohio Redistricting Commission

Pursuant to Article XI Section 01(A)(4) of the Ohio Constitution, the Speaker of the House hereby appoints the following individual to the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

APPOINT: Robert R. Cupp

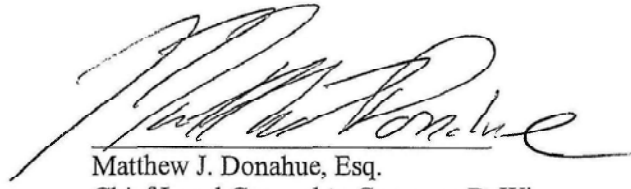
CONVENING OF THE OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

August 6, 2021

Certification Regarding Notification of Meeting to the Public and the News Media

The undersigned, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor, certifies that notice of the time, place and purpose of the convening of the 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission was given to the press and the public via press release of Monday August 2, 2021 at 10.03 AM. A copy of the official notice and press release is attached. This notice was done in compliance with Ohio law. Additionally, a reminder notice was sent via press release on August 5, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Donahue", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew J. Donahue, Esq.
Chief Legal Counsel to Governor DeWine



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2021**

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution, Governor Mike DeWine will convene the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission for the year 2021.

When:
August 6, 2021, at 9:00 AM

Where:
The Ohio Statehouse
Richard H. Finan Hearing Room (Senate Finance Hearing Room)
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio

General Order of Business for the Convening:
Governor DeWine will convene the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission for the year 2021. The appointments of any appointed members of the commission will be entered into the record, the roll will be called, the co-chairpersons will be formally entered into the record, and the meeting will be turned over to the co-chairpersons.

Donahue, Matthew

From: Gov. DeWine Comms <OhioGovernor@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 10:03 AM
To: Donahue, Matthew
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor DeWine to Convene Ohio Redistricting Commission



MEDIA ADVISORY:
August 2, 2021

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Dan Tierney: 614-644-0957
Breann Almos: 614-644-0957

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will convene the first meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission for the year 2021 on Friday, August 6th at 9:00 a.m.

[Official Notice \(PDF\)](#)

WHAT:
First meeting of the Ohio Redistricting Commission

WHERE:
Ohio Statehouse
Richard H. Finan Hearing Room
One Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

WHEN:
Friday, August 6, 2021
Event begins at 9:00 a.m.

-30-

STAY CONNECTED:



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Governor.Ohio.gov | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

August 2021 Talking Points

- Updates are underlined.

Stats:

- Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
- Issued over \$4.8 million in findings for recovery in the last year
- Assisted in 26 convictions in the last year
- 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
- More than 600 tips of suspected fraud
- Expanded eligibility for Basic Audit and AUPs resulting in 80% and 49% in savings for clients

Office Updates:

- AOS annual report is posted on the website.
- First redistricting commission meeting set for Friday, August 6th.

Senate Bill 19

Property tax rollback exemption study program – Merrin inserted language to Schaffer's bill to set up a system for county auditors to work with the Tax Commissioner to identify properties that might be wrongly receiving an exemption and report on it.

- This is not language that we drafted or advocated for – our audits have identified errors in the property tax exemption programs that we believe is more a state concern than a county concern and that county auditors only have so much ability to check properties within their own county, not in the other 87 counties
- We would recommend the legislature require and give resources to the Tax Department to establish a central database as a tool for county auditors to be able to identify cross-county duplicates

Performance Audit of Department of Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is the third largest state agency with almost 4,000 employees in its six divisions. These divisions function independently to carry out missions related to serving and protecting Ohioans.

- This audit reviewed:
 - Department Staffing, focusing on support staff in human resources, general services, fiscal services, and administrative assistants.
 - Bureau of Motor Vehicles, centering on an examination of efficiency and opportunities to increase revenues while minimizing fee increases to Ohioans.
 - Information Technology, emphasizing the efficient and effective use of technology, as well as appropriate governance and oversight.

- Fleet, ensuring appropriate policies and procedures centering on efficiency and effectiveness, as ODPS and the State Highway Patrol (OSHP) maintain a larger fleet than many other agencies.
- The audit made 14 recommendations totaling nearly \$5 million in annual savings.

Summary of As Enacted budget items impacting AOS

The State Budget passed the state legislature and is being reviewed by the Governor. The following items were included:

- The General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation line items included Audit Management and Services, Performance Audits, and Local Government Audit Support. The GRF appropriation line items included the Local Government Audit Support Fund.
- The deeds preparations process has been moved to DAS.
- The Chief Deputy Auditor must be a CPA.
- Appointed municipal fiscal officer continuing education requirements must match those for elected municipal fiscal officers.
 - This was vetoed by the Governor. Our statement is: “We believe that creating a faster and cheaper mediation process in the court of claims would allow for greater access for Ohioans. A similar program has proven to be successful for public records disputes, and we will continue to advocate for greater transparency in government.”
- Commission on the 250th anniversary of the US founding. If the Commission requests appropriations from the GA, then the money shall be audited annually.
- SB 165 - academic distress commissions. One-time performance audit during the improvement plan three-year implementation period.
- Allows regional COGs set up to provide health care benefits with an ESC as fiscal agent to acquire, establish, manage, or operate a separate business entity and use its unencumbered reserve funds to do so.
- Force account limits have been increased for local governments to take on bridge, road, and highway projects.
- Funds and fiscal records of OHC must be examined by IPA approved by AOS.

Redistricting

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

- The Commission draft the legislative districts and if the legislature can't come to a decision with the first draft of the congressional lines, it comes to the Commission.
- Criteria focus on keeping communities together and increasing transparency.
- The state of Ohio and the U.S. Census Bureau asked a judge on Tuesday to place on hold their court fight over when data used for redrawing congressional and legislative districts will be released. ([AP NEWS](#))

- As part of a settlement agreement, the Census Bureau promised to release the redistricting data no later than Aug. 16 — a date it had previously picked for releasing the numbers in an older format. The bureau also agreed to provide Ohio with twice-monthly updates on its progress toward meeting that deadline.

College Credit Plus

Recent Interviews:

- Morning Journal - [Ohio Auditor holds roundtable discussion at LCCC](#)
- Chronicle Telegram - [State auditor touts College Credit Plus](#)
- The Daily Record - [School leaders discuss what's working \(and what's not\) in Ohio's College Credit Plus program](#)

College Credit Plus is an opportunity for Ohio's high school students to earn college credit for free. Auditor Faber is currently meeting with students, teachers, professors, administrators, and parents to hear their experiences with the program

- We are interested to see how the program is working across the state.
 - Participation rates
 - Benefits to the state
- We will be conducting a performance audit of the program and it is currently being scoped.
- Auditor Faber has hosted roundtable discussions with college and high school officials in Lorain, Orrville, and Lebanon.

Unemployment Compensation System – Fraud/Bad Customer Service

Recent Interviews:

- NBC4- [The Spectrum with Colleen Marshall](#)
- Dayton 24/7 - [Ohio Auditor calls unemployment system 'dysfunctional,' audits underway](#)
- Cleveland 19 News- [Widespread fraud information within unemployment system not provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, state auditor says](#)
- NBC4 - [Ohio auditor: Fraud investigation unveils 'levels of failure' in unemployment system](#)

The AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

- Our office has received a high volume of unemployment fraud/identify theft claims, including a fraudulent claim filed in Auditor Faber's name/
- It came to our attention that ODJFS was continuing to bill employers, despite obviously fraudulent claims. Upon inquiry, ODJFS had advised employers that they must pay these bills. AOS did not agree with that advice.
- As a result, AOS issued an advisory on February 26, 2021 to local government employers informing them that our office will not issue Findings for Recovery or make audit findings where a local government elects to pay an invoice from ODJFS for potentially fraudulent claims.

- There are serious concerns and issues, especially with fraud, in our state's unemployment system. These systematic failures have been highlighted by the increased demand as a result of the pandemic.
- Completed a statewide tour listening to Ohioans dealing with delayed payments, long customer service wait times, and their identities being stolen for fraudulent unemployment claims.
- The Legislature required us to do a study of the JFS unemployment compensation system and its processes. From this study we must issue a report that explicitly covers 18 areas of interest. In that report we will also make any recommendations that we think will improve the system. We have worked with JFS before and I am confident that they will be a good partner in this audit. At the end of the day, we all have the same goal. We need this to work better.
- The Office is also doing an audit of the rampant fraud. The State Single Audit issued a qualified opinion regarding ODJFS meaning that auditors did not have confidence in the financial statements provided. During the *State Audit*, ODJFS did not share the vast occurrences of fraud that had taken place.
- We cannot operate a government program whose success is dictated by which person answers the phone. Ohioans are depending on us to get this right so people in need can get the resources they deserve and get them on time.
- The performance audit reviewing customer service is expected this fall after data collection difficulties working with peer states and Ohio's data system.

Certificate of Transition

At the end of April, AOS issued Bulletin 2021-005 regarding the Certificate of Transition by Outgoing Fiscal Officers. The bulletin, which is available on our website, outlines the requirements as adopted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.171 for completing the Certificate and provides guidance and an example. The Certificate process was established to aid in the transition of office and to help ensure the incoming officer has the tools they need to succeed.

- The bulletin as well as our website includes the Certificate of Transition template.
- As a best practice, **incoming** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible upon taking office and consistently update it for as long as they hold the position.
- All **current** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible and consistently update it for as long as you hold the position.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding

The [COVID Resource Page](#) on our website remains a helpful place for local governments to get up to date information on guidance and funding requirements. As the American Rescue Plan money hits local governments, we remain available to answer questions and offer assistance.

- The CARES Act providing much needed assistance, but the guidelines surrounding the spending of these dollars is confusing and occasionally even contradictory.
- On our website is the CARES Act/COVID-19 resources webpage for local government clients where we track changes in the rules and guidelines on CARES Act funds and provides updates as they become available.
- We have shared guidance on how to use CARES funding as housing assistance and to help small businesses.

- We are still waiting on more information regarding the American Rescue Plan funding that many local governments will receive and will continue our communication and flexibility in our audits to help everyone navigate this changing environment.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was effective March 11, 2021. As part of this Act, the U.S. Treasury will distribute Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds directly to counties and metropolitan cities. Non-metropolitan municipalities (<50,000 population) are classified as non-entitlement units and should expect to receive this funding through the State of Ohio.

- The distribution methodology to counties and metropolitan cities is as follows:
 - Counties are allocated based on each county's population share of the total population of all counties, using the latest available population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Treasury makes use of the 2019 Census for the purposes of this allocation.
 - Each metropolitan city (> 50,000 population) shall receive an amount determined consistent with the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) formula.
- There are broad definitions of allowable uses. In summary, Treasury is providing the State and Local Recovery Fund relief to:
 - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
 - Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
 - Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
 - Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the in equal impact of the pandemic

General Office Reminders:

- LGS
 - LGS can be trusted to provide high-quality, timely assistance addressing financial, accounting or budgetary concerns.
 - LGS is offering four free hours of expertise in training or providing assistance to local government officials with current issues. We are using this as an opportunity to introduce ourselves to those not familiar with LGS by demonstrating our vast, experienced and knowledgeable staff. For those who are currently or have been an LGS client, this could be an opportunity to see the new services we provide.
 - Clients could use part of the four free hours to discuss accounting issues arising from the American Rescue Plan, on reconstruction or reconciliation needs or preparing a multiple-year financial forecast detailing both your operational and capital needs.
- SIU
 - The mission of SIU is to promote transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, to expose fraud and corruption where it exists, and to assist law enforcement and prosecutors in the pursuit of justice.
 - Ways to submit a tip: 1-866-Fraud-OH, fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov, mobile app, mail
 - Once a tip is submitted, SIU evaluates the tip to direct it to the appropriate agency and if it is within AOS authority a special audit or investigation will begin.

- *StaRS*
 - We recently released a [report](#) with the first year results of the StaRS program. All results are posted [online](#).
 - The StaRS program has allowed us to recognize local governments that go above and beyond when it comes to open government and bring accountability to those that could be doing better.
 - Since launch of the program, 4,181 entities have been audited. More than 50% achieved a one star rating, meeting compliance with Ohio's public records laws. Almost 50% of them implemented best practices to earn additional stars.
- Cyber Security
 - Especially now that many of us are working from home and on potentially less secure connections - Cybersecurity is an area we are looking to ramp up as it becomes a growing concern among our local governments as it is in our business community.
 - We plan to increase our training and prevention tactics for our clients
 - For Fiscal Officers: The Auditor of State's Office provides a **free** of charge cyber security course covering many important aspects to keep you safe and informed. This course provided by the security and awareness firm KnowBe4 can be accessed through any of our website's webpages that require a login (UANLink, The Hinkle System, The Fiscal Integrity Act Portal). Once logged in you will see a link to the training and the password. While the course is titled Home Internet Security, the information covers many topics relevant to home and work. It likely will take an hour or more to complete the training, but is broken into modules that can be taken over time.

Upcoming Work

- Unemployment performance audit (customer service) and public interest audit (fraud) expected this fall.

July 2021 Talking Points

- Updates are underlined.

Stats (will be updated for August):

- Since taking office,
 - Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
 - Issued over \$9.2 million in findings for recovery
 - Assisted in 51+ convictions resulting in more than \$2.1 million in restitution
 - 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
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Office Updates:

- AOS office re-opening July 6th

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- Open meetings mediation process in the Court of Claims similar to that for public records.

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- All **current** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible and consistently update it for as long as you hold the position.
- Who must comply:
 - County auditor (in case of county)
 - City auditor or village clerk (in case of municipal corp)
 - Township fiscal officer (in the case of a township)
 - Chief accounting officer (in case of a municipal university under board control)
 - Treasurer of board of education
 - County school financing district - Treasurer of ESC governing board that serves as the taxing authority
 - Joint police district treasurer
 - Joint fire district – clerk of the board of the fire district trustees
 - Joint ambulance district – clerk of the board
 - Joint emergency medical district – fiscal officer appointed under 307.053 (D)
 - Fire and ambulance district – fiscal officer appointed under 505.375
 - Joint recreation district – person designated under 755.15
 - Union cemetery district – the clerk of the muni corp designated under 759.34
 - Children’s home district – ESC – general health district – joint county alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services district – county library district – detention facility district under 2151.65 – a combined district under 2152.41 and 2151.65 – a metropolitan park district for which no treasurer has been appointed per 1545.07 ---- the county auditor of the county designated by law to act as the auditor of the district
 - A metropolitan park district with an appointed treasurer per 1545.07 --- that treasurer
 - Drainage improvement district – the county auditor in which the district is located
 - Lake facilities authority – the fiscal officer designated under 353.02
 - Regional student education district – the fiscal officer appointed per 3313.83
 - In all other cases, the officer responsible for keeping the appropriation accounts and drawing warrants for the expenditure of the moneys of the district or taxing unit.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding

The [COVID Resource Page](#) on our website remains a helpful place for local governments to get up to date information on guidance and funding requirements. As the American Rescue Plan money hits local governments, we remain available to answer questions and offer assistance.

- The Cares Act providing much needed assistance, but the guidelines surrounding the spending of these dollars is confusing and occasionally even contradictory.

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General Office Reminders:

- LGS
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 - Especially now that many of us are working from home and on potentially less secure connections - Cybersecurity is an area we are looking to ramp up as it becomes a growing concern among our local governments as it is in our business community.
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 - For Fiscal Officers: The Auditor of State's Office provides a **free** of charge cyber security course covering many important aspects to keep you safe and informed. This course provided by the security and awareness firm KnowBe4 can be accessed through any of our website's webpages that require a login (UANLink, The Hinkle System, The Fiscal Integrity Act Portal). Once logged in you will see a link to the training and the password. While the course is titled Home Internet Security, the information covers many topics relevant to home and work. It likely will take an hour or more to complete the training, but is broken into modules that can be taken over time.

Upcoming Work

- AOS Annual Report

June 2021 Talking Points

- Updates are underlined.

Stats:

- Since taking office,
 - Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
 - Issued over \$9.2 million in findings for recovery
 - Assisted in 51+ convictions resulting in more than \$2.1 million in restitution
 - 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
 - More than 600 tips of suspected fraud

Office Updates:

- AOS office re-opening July 6th
- External newsletter was sent on May 25th

Redistricting

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

- The Commission draft the legislative districts and if the legislature can't come to a decision with the first draft of the congressional lines, it comes to the Commission.
- Criteria focus on keeping communities together and increasing transparency.
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College Credit Plus

Recent Interviews:

- Morning Journal - [Ohio Auditor holds roundtable discussion at LCCC](#)
- Chronicle Telegram - [State auditor touts College Credit Plus](#)
- The Daily Record - [School leaders discuss what's working \(and what's not\) in Ohio's College Credit Plus program](#)

College Credit Plus is an opportunity for Ohio's high school students to earn college credit for free. Auditor Faber is currently meeting with students, teachers, professors, administrators, and parents to hear their experiences with the program

- We are interested to see how the program is working across the state.
 - Participation rates
 - Benefits to the state
- We will be conducting a performance audit of the program and it is currently being scoped.

Unemployment Compensation System – Fraud/Bad Customer Service

Recent Interviews:

- NBC4- [The Spectrum with Colleen Marshall](#)
- Dayton 24/7 - [Ohio Auditor calls unemployment system 'dysfunctional,' audits underway](#)
- Cleveland 19 News- [Widespread fraud information within unemployment system not provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, state auditor says](#)
- NBC4 - [Ohio auditor: Fraud investigation unveils 'levels of failure' in unemployment system](#)

The [AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system](#) in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

- Our office has received a high volume of unemployment fraud/identify theft claims, including a fraudulent claim filed in my own name. I know I am not unemployed!
- It came to our attention that ODJFS was continuing to bill employers, despite obviously fraudulent claims. Upon inquiry, ODJFS had advised employers that they must pay these bills. AOS did not agree with that advice.
- As a result, AOS issued an advisory on February 26, 2021 to local government employers informing them that our office will not issue Findings for Recovery or make audit findings where a local government elects to pay an invoice from ODJFS for potentially fraudulent claims.
- There are serious concerns and issues, especially with fraud, in our state's unemployment system. These systematic failures have been highlighted by the increased demand as a result of the pandemic.
- Completed a statewide tour listening to Ohioans dealing with delayed payments, long customer service wait times, and their identities being stolen for fraudulent unemployment claims.
- The Legislature required us to do a study of the JFS unemployment compensation system and its processes. From this study we must issue a report that explicitly covers 18 areas of

interest. In that report we will also make any recommendations that we think will improve the system. We have worked with JFS before and I am confident that they will be a good partner in this audit. At the end of the day, we all have the same goal. We need this to work better.

- We cannot operate a government program whose success is dictated by which person answers the phone. Ohioans are depending on us to get this right so people in need can get the resources they deserve and get them on time.

Certificate of Transition

At the end of April, AOS issued Bulletin 2021-005 regarding the Certificate of Transition by Outgoing Fiscal Officers. The bulletin, which is available on our website, outlines the requirements as adopted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.171 for completing the Certificate and provides guidance and an example. The Certificate process was established to aid in the transition of office and to help ensure the incoming officer has the tools they need to succeed.

- The bulletin as well as our website includes the Certificate of Transition template.
- As a best practice, **incoming** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible upon taking office and consistently update it for as long as they hold the position.
- All **current** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible and consistently update it for as long as you hold the position.
- Who must comply:
 - County auditor (in case of county)
 - City auditor or village clerk (in case of municipal corp)
 - Township fiscal officer (in the case of a township)
 - Chief accounting officer (in case of a municipal university under board control)
 - Treasurer of board of education
 - County school financing district - Treasurer of ESC governing board that serves as the taxing authority
 - Joint police district treasurer
 - Joint fire district – clerk of the board of the fire district trustees
 - Joint ambulance district – clerk of the board
 - Joint emergency medical district – fiscal officer appointed under 307.053 (D)
 - Fire and ambulance district – fiscal officer appointed under 505.375
 - Joint recreation district – person designated under 755.15
 - Union cemetery district – the clerk of the muni corp designated under 759.34
 - Children’s home district – ESC – general health district – joint county alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services district – county library district – detention facility district under 2151.65 – a combined district under 2152.41 and 2151.65 – a metropolitan park district for which no treasurer has been appointed

per 1545.07 ---- the county auditor of the county designated by law to act as the auditor of the district

- A metropolitan park district with an appointed treasurer per 1545.07 --- that treasurer
- Drainage improvement district – the county auditor in which the district is located
- Lake facilities authority – the fiscal officer designated under 353.02
- Regional student education district – the fiscal officer appointed per 3313.83
- In all other cases, the officer responsible for keeping the appropriation accounts and drawing warrants for the expenditure of the moneys of the district or taxing unit

State Budget/ Local Government Audit Support Fund (LGASF)

The State Budget is currently being discussed in the legislature. The Auditor's Office asked for an increase in the LGASF to \$13 million over the next biennium. We are encouraging local officials to contact their legislators to advocate for the fund, as it saves them significant money.

- The LGASF is our main budget priority - asked the General Assembly to help the office offset the audit costs for local entities by allocating money in the state budget to an assistance fund.
- The LGASF allows us to maintain current audit rates for local governments and avoids the need to raise rates.
- Although the Auditor's office works to keep our costs much lower than a private auditing company, it can still be additional financial hardship on smaller towns.
- The renewal of this fund would help to ensure that our financial resources are spent in our communities to address important local projects and needs.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding

The [COVID Resource Page](#) on our website remains a helpful place for local governments to get up to date information on guidance and funding requirements. As the American Rescue Plan money hits local governments, we remain available to answer questions and offer assistance.

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State Audit

The State Audit reviews Ohio's financial statements and federal financial assistance programs. Federal expenditures totaled nearly \$39.9 billion in FY 2020. The audit identified 28 findings in 10 state agencies and most notably issues a qualified opinion in regard to the state unemployment system.

- A "qualified opinion" was issued against the State, which is serious and quite uncommon.
 - It signifies that auditors can't determine the accuracy of the financial statements that have been provided so it brings into question on these financials whether the effected opinion units can be used to draw an accurate picture of the finances of the entity being audited.
- ODJFS had internal control weaknesses related to recipient eligibility and claims processing of unemployment benefits which resulted in this issuance.
- During the audit, ODJFS did not share the vast occurrences of fraud that had taken place.
- This failure on the part of ODJFS to have proper/consistent controls on unemployment dollars is a significant shortcoming that allowed additional fraud to occur.
- Fraudulent claims and delays in legitimate payments has been a staple since the onset of the pandemic and the issues this audit uncovered begin, at least in part, to shed a light on how these issues became possible.

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a link to the training and the password. While the course is titled Home Internet Security, the information covers many topics relevant to home and work. It likely will take an hour or more to complete the training, but is broken into modules that can be taken over time.

Upcoming Work

- Department of Public Safety Performance Audit is wrapping up and is expected to be released in the near future.
- College Credit Plus Performance Audit is being scoped.

Ohio Redistricting Commission Launches Public Input Website

From: Auditor of the State of Ohio - Public Affairs <press@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Fri, 20 Aug 2021 10:08:28 -0400



For Immediate Release:
August 20, 2021

Ohio Redistricting Commission Launches Public Input Website

Columbus – Auditor of State Keith Faber today joins his colleagues on the Ohio Redistricting Commission to announce the launch of <https://www.redistricting.ohio.gov/>. The website allows the public to share testimony, draft maps and information with members of the Commission while also providing resources and the opportunity to watch meetings.

“This is an important time for our state and our bipartisan Commission understands that Ohioans want to participate in the process that will eventually help determine who represents their interests in both Columbus and Washington D.C.,” said Auditor Faber. “This webpage will ensure that Ohioans have the opportunity to share their ideas, information and concerns for consideration throughout the redistricting process.”

The Commission is hosting public hearings across the state. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, August 23rd: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Cleveland State University**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Youngstown State University**

Tuesday, August 24th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Sinclair Community College**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **University of Cincinnati**

Wednesday, August 25th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Ohio University – Zanesville Campus**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Rio Grande Community College**

Thursday, August 26th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Ohio State University – Lima**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **University of Toledo**

Friday, August 27th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **University of Akron**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Ohio State University - Mansfield**

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###

The Auditor of State's office, one of five independently elected statewide offices in Ohio is responsible for auditing more than 6,000 state and local government agencies. Under the direction of Auditor Keith Faber, the office also provides financial services to local governments, investigates and prevents fraud in public agencies, and promotes transparency in government.

Re: REVISED: July Talking Points

From: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Robert P. Abel <rpabel@ohioauditor.gov>, Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 07 Jul 2021 10:10:39 -0400

James will reach out to regionals to discuss. We need them to understand the process, but we should not be making any specific comments regarding the process. I can imagine they may get questions and need to be able to speak to the process

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Robert P. Abel <RPabel@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:05:48 AM
To: Allie J. Dumski <AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov>; Torri A. Huebner <VAHuebner@ohioauditor.gov>; Lori A. Brodie <LABrodie@ohioauditor.gov>; Joseph L. Braden <JLBraden@ohioauditor.gov>; Ryan A. Holiday <RAHoliday@ohioauditor.gov>; Dominic F. Ciano <DFCiano@ohioauditor.gov>; Perry Alexandrides <PAlexandrides@ohioauditor.gov>; Jake T. Altman <JAltman@ohioauditor.gov>; Emily Redman <EERedman@ohioauditor.gov>; Thomas E. Hancock <TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <MREiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>; James M. Coyne <JMCoyne@ohioauditor.gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Logan M. Wild <LMWild@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: RE: REVISED: July Talking Points

Remove the July 6th return to work, that's not for public consumption. Also, do we want to proactively talk about redistricting?

From: Allie J. Dumski <AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Torri A. Huebner <VAHuebner@ohioauditor.gov>; Lori A. Brodie <LABrodie@ohioauditor.gov>; Joseph L. Braden <JLBraden@ohioauditor.gov>; Ryan A. Holiday <RAHoliday@ohioauditor.gov>; Dominic F. Ciano <DFCiano@ohioauditor.gov>; Perry Alexandrides <PAlexandrides@ohioauditor.gov>; Jake T. Altman <JAltman@ohioauditor.gov>; Emily Redman <EERedman@ohioauditor.gov>; Thomas E. Hancock <TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov>
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Subject: REVISED: July Talking Points

Please use this attachment.

From: Allie J. Dumski
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Torri A. Huebner <VAHuebner@ohioauditor.gov>; Lori A. Brodie <LABrodie@ohioauditor.gov>; Joseph L. Braden <JLBraden@ohioauditor.gov>; Ryan A. Holiday <RAHoliday@ohioauditor.gov>; Dominic F. Ciano <DFCiano@ohioauditor.gov>; Perry Alexandrides <PAlexandrides@ohioauditor.gov>; Jake T. Altman <JAltman@ohioauditor.gov>; Emily Redman <EERedman@ohioauditor.gov>; Thomas E. Hancock <TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov>
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Subject: July Talking Points

Attached are the July talking points. Please let me know if topics come up in your meetings that would be helpful going forward.

Thanks!
Allie



Allison Dumski
Auditor of State Keith Faber
Press Secretary
(440) 829-1894 Cell
(614) 728-7243 Work
AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov
www.ohioauditor.gov

Redistricting Contacts

From: Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Frederick M. Shimp <fmshimp@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 11 Aug 2021 15:09:48 -0400

Redistricting Commission Co-Chairs

House Speaker
Robert Cupp
614-466-9624

Senator
Vernon Sykes
(614) 466-7041

Ruth should direct calls to the Senators as they are leading the Commission and setting the public hearing schedule.



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From: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Torri A. Huebner <vahuebner@ohioauditor.gov>, Lori A. Brodie <labrodie@ohioauditor.gov>, Joseph L. Braden <jlbraden@ohioauditor.gov>, Ryan A. Holiday <raholiday@ohioauditor.gov>, Dominic F. Ciano <dfciano@ohioauditor.gov>, Perry Alexandrides <palexandrides@ohioauditor.gov>, Jake T. Altman <jtaltman@ohioauditor.gov>, Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>, Thomas E. Hancock <tehancock@ohioauditor.gov>
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Date: Wed, 07 Jul 2021 09:59:43 -0400
Attachments: July 2021 Talking Points.docx (49.84 kB)

Please use this attachment.

From: Allie J. Dumski
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Torri A. Huebner <VAHuebner@ohioauditor.gov>; Lori A. Brodie <LABrodie@ohioauditor.gov>; Joseph L. Braden <JLBraden@ohioauditor.gov>; Ryan A. Holiday <RAHoliday@ohioauditor.gov>; Dominic F. Ciano <DFCiano@ohioauditor.gov>; Perry Alexandrides <PAlexandrides@ohioauditor.gov>; Jake T. Altman <JTAltman@ohioauditor.gov>; Emily Redman <EERedman@ohioauditor.gov>; Thomas E. Hancock <TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov>
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Thanks!
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Office Updates:

- AOS office re-opening July 6th

Performance Audit of Department of Public Safety

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is the third largest state agency with almost 4,000 employees in its six divisions. These divisions function independently to carry out missions related to serving and protecting Ohioans.

- This audit reviewed:
 - Department Staffing, focusing on support staff in human resources, general services, fiscal services, and administrative assistants.
 - Bureau of Motor Vehicles, centering on an examination of efficiency and opportunities to increase revenues while minimizing fee increases to Ohioans.
 - Information Technology, emphasizing the efficient and effective use of technology, as well as appropriate governance and oversight.
 - Fleet, ensuring appropriate policies and procedures centering on efficiency and effectiveness, as ODPS and the State Highway Patrol (OSHP) maintain a larger fleet than many other agencies.
- The audit made 14 recommendations totaling nearly \$5 million in annual savings.

Summary of As Enacted budget items impacting AOS

The State Budget passed the state legislature and is being reviewed by the Governor. The following items were included:

- The General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation line items included Audit Management and Services, Performance Audits, and Local Government Audit Support. The GRF appropriation line items included the Local Government Audit Support Fund.
- The deeds preparations process has been moved to DAS.
- The Chief Deputy Auditor must be a CPA.
- Appointed municipal fiscal officer continuing education requirements must match those for elected municipal fiscal officers.
- ~~Open meetings mediation process in the Court of Claims similar to that for public records.~~

- This was vetoed by the Governor. Our statement is: “We believe that creating a faster and cheaper mediation process in the court of claims would allow for greater access for Ohioans. A similar program has proven to be successful for public records disputes, and we will continue to advocate for greater transparency in government.”
- Commission on the 250th anniversary of the US founding. If the Commission requests appropriations from the GA, then the money shall be audited annually.
- SB 165 - academic distress commissions. One-time performance audit during the improvement plan three-year implementation period.
- Allows regional COGs set up to provide health care benefits with an ESC as fiscal agent to acquire, establish, manage, or operate a separate business entity and use its unencumbered reserve funds to do so.
- Force account limits have been increased for local governments to take on bridge, road, and highway projects.
- Funds and fiscal records of OHC must be examined by IPA approved by AOS.

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- Chronicle Telegram - [State auditor touts College Credit Plus](#)
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- We are interested to see how the program is working across the state.

- Participation rates
- Benefits to the state
- We will be conducting a performance audit of the program and it is currently being scoped.
- Auditor Faber has hosted roundtable discussions with college and high school officials in Lorain, Orrville, and Lebanon.

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- Cleveland 19 News- [Widespread fraud information within unemployment system not provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, state auditor says](#)
- NBC4 - [Ohio auditor: Fraud investigation unveils 'levels of failure' in unemployment system](#)

The AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

- Our office has received a high volume of unemployment fraud/identify theft claims, including a fraudulent claim filed in Auditor Faber's name/
- It came to our attention that ODJFS was continuing to bill employers, despite obviously fraudulent claims. Upon inquiry, ODJFS had advised employers that they must pay these bills. AOS did not agree with that advice.
- As a result, AOS issued an advisory on February 26, 2021 to local government employers informing them that our office will not issue Findings for Recovery or make audit findings where a local government elects to pay an invoice from ODJFS for potentially fraudulent claims.
- There are serious concerns and issues, especially with fraud, in our state's unemployment system. These systematic failures have been highlighted by the increased demand as a result of the pandemic.
- Completed a statewide tour listening to Ohioans dealing with delayed payments, long customer service wait times, and their identities being stolen for fraudulent unemployment claims.
- The Legislature required us to do a study of the JFS unemployment compensation system and its processes. From this study we must issue a report that explicitly covers 18 areas of interest. In that report we will also make any recommendations that we think will improve the system. We have worked with JFS before and I am confident that they will be a good partner in this audit. At the end of the day, we all have the same goal. We need this to work better.
- The Office is also doing an audit of the rampant fraud. The State Single Audit issued a qualified opinion regarding ODJFS meaning that auditors did not have confidence in the financial statements provided. During the *State Audit*, ODJFS did not share the vast occurrences of fraud that had taken place.
- We cannot operate a government program whose success is dictated by which person answers the phone. Ohioans are depending on us to get this right so people in need can get the resources they deserve and get them on time.

- The performance audit reviewing customer service is expected this fall after data collection difficulties working with peer states and Ohio's data system.

Certificate of Transition

At the end of April, AOS issued Bulletin 2021-005 regarding the Certificate of Transition by Outgoing Fiscal Officers. The bulletin, which is available on our website, outlines the requirements as adopted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.171 for completing the Certificate and provides guidance and an example. The Certificate process was established to aid in the transition of office and to help ensure the incoming officer has the tools they need to succeed:

- The bulletin as well as our website includes the Certificate of Transition template.
- As a best practice, **incoming** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible upon taking office and consistently update it for as long as they hold the position.
- All **current** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible and consistently update it for as long as you hold the position.
- Who must comply:
 - County auditor (in case of county)
 - City auditor or village clerk (in case of municipal corp)
 - Township fiscal officer (in the case of a township)
 - Chief accounting officer (in case of a municipal university under board control)
 - Treasurer of board of education
 - County school financing district - Treasurer of ESC governing board that serves as the taxing authority
 - Joint police district treasurer
 - Joint fire district – clerk of the board of the fire district trustees
 - Joint ambulance district – clerk of the board
 - Joint emergency medical district – fiscal officer appointed under 307.053 (D)
 - Fire and ambulance district – fiscal officer appointed under 505.375
 - Joint recreation district – person designated under 755.15
 - Union cemetery district – the clerk of the muni corp designated under 759.34
 - Children's home district – ESC – general health district – joint county alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services district – county library district – detention facility district under 2151.65 – a combined district under 2152.41 and 2151.65 – a metropolitan park district for which no treasurer has been appointed per 1545.07 ---- the county auditor of the county designated by law to act as the auditor of the district
 - A metropolitan park district with an appointed treasurer per 1545.07 --- that treasurer
 - Drainage improvement district – the county auditor in which the district is located
 - Lake facilities authority – the fiscal officer designated under 353.02
 - Regional student education district – the fiscal officer appointed per 3313.83
 - In all other cases, the officer responsible for keeping the appropriation accounts and drawing warrants for the expenditure of the moneys of the district or taxing unit.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding

The [COVID Resource Page](#) on our website remains a helpful place for local governments to get up to date information on guidance and funding requirements. As the American Rescue Plan money hits local governments, we remain available to answer questions and offer assistance.

- The Cares Act providing much needed assistance, but the guidelines surrounding the spending of these dollars is confusing and occasionally even contradictory.
- On our website is the CARES Act/COVID-19 resources webpage for local government clients where we track changes in the rules and guidelines on CARES Act funds and provides updates as they become available.
- We have shared guidance on how to use CARES funding as housing assistance and to help small businesses.
- We are still waiting on more information regarding the American Rescue Plan funding that many local governments will receive and will continue our communication and flexibility in our audits to help everyone navigate this changing environment.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was effective March 11, 2021. As part of this Act, the U.S. Treasury will distribute Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds directly to counties and metropolitan cities. Non-metropolitan municipalities (<50,000 population) are classified as non-entitlement units and should expect to receive this funding through the State of Ohio.

- The distribution methodology to counties and metropolitan cities is as follows:
 - Counties are allocated based on each county's population share of the total population of all counties, using the latest available population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Treasury makes use of the 2019 Census for the purposes of this allocation.
 - Each metropolitan city (> 50,000 population) shall receive an amount determined consistent with the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) formula.
- There are broad definitions of allowable uses. In summary, Treasury is providing the State and Local Recovery Fund relief to:
 - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
 - Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
 - Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
 - Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the in equal impact of the pandemic

General Office Reminders:

- [LGS](#)
 - LGS can be trusted to provide high-quality, timely assistance addressing financial, accounting or budgetary concerns.
 - LGS is offering four free hours of expertise in training or providing assistance to local government officials with current issues. We are using this as an opportunity to introduce ourselves to those not familiar with LGS by demonstrating our vast, experienced and knowledgeable staff. For those who are currently or have been an LGS client, this could be an opportunity to see the new services we provide.

- Clients could use part of the four free hours to discuss accounting issues arising from the American Rescue Plan, on reconstruction or reconciliation needs or preparing a multiple-year financial forecast detailing both your operational and capital needs.
- *SIU*
 - The mission of SIU is to promote transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, to expose fraud and corruption where it exists, and to assist law enforcement and prosecutors in the pursuit of justice.
 - Ways to submit a tip: 1-866-Fraud-OH, fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov, mobile app, mail
 - Once a tip is submitted, SIU evaluates the tip to direct it to the appropriate agency and if it is within AOS authority a special audit or investigation will begin.
- *StaRS*
 - We recently released a [report](#) with the first year results of the StaRS program. All results are posted [online](#).
 - The StaRS program has allowed us to recognize local governments that go above and beyond when it comes to open government and bring accountability to those that could be doing better.
 - In the first year of the program, 2,812 entities have been audited. More than 59% achieved a one star rating, meeting compliance with Ohio's public records laws. Almost 50% of them implemented best practices to earn additional stars.
- *Cyber Security*
 - Especially now that many of us are working from home and on potentially less secure connections - Cybersecurity is an area we are looking to ramp up as it becomes a growing concern among our local governments as it is in our business community.
 - We plan to increase our training and prevention tactics for our clients
 - For Fiscal Officers: The Auditor of State's Office provides a **free** of charge cyber security course covering many important aspects to keep you safe and informed. This course provided by the security and awareness firm KnowBe4 can be accessed through any of our website's webpages that require a login (UANLink, The Hinkle System, The Fiscal Integrity Act Portal). Once logged in you will see a link to the training and the password. While the course is titled Home Internet Security, the information covers many topics relevant to home and work. It likely will take an hour or more to complete the training, but is broken into modules that can be taken over time.

Upcoming Work

- AOS Annual Report

[External]Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Tue, 17 Aug 2021 15:24:51 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission - proposed regional hearing schedule (internal).docx (22.99 kB)

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All:

Please find attached an updated working schedule of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We continue to fill in details and will recirculate a finalized version by the end of the week (all dates, times, and general locations are confirmed, however).

We would appreciate if you let us know by Friday morning if your respective Commission member plans on attend any of the hearings, or if they plan on sending a designee, so that we can prepare name plates in advance and advise university site hosts appropriately.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
Mobile: 614.352.5819
Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

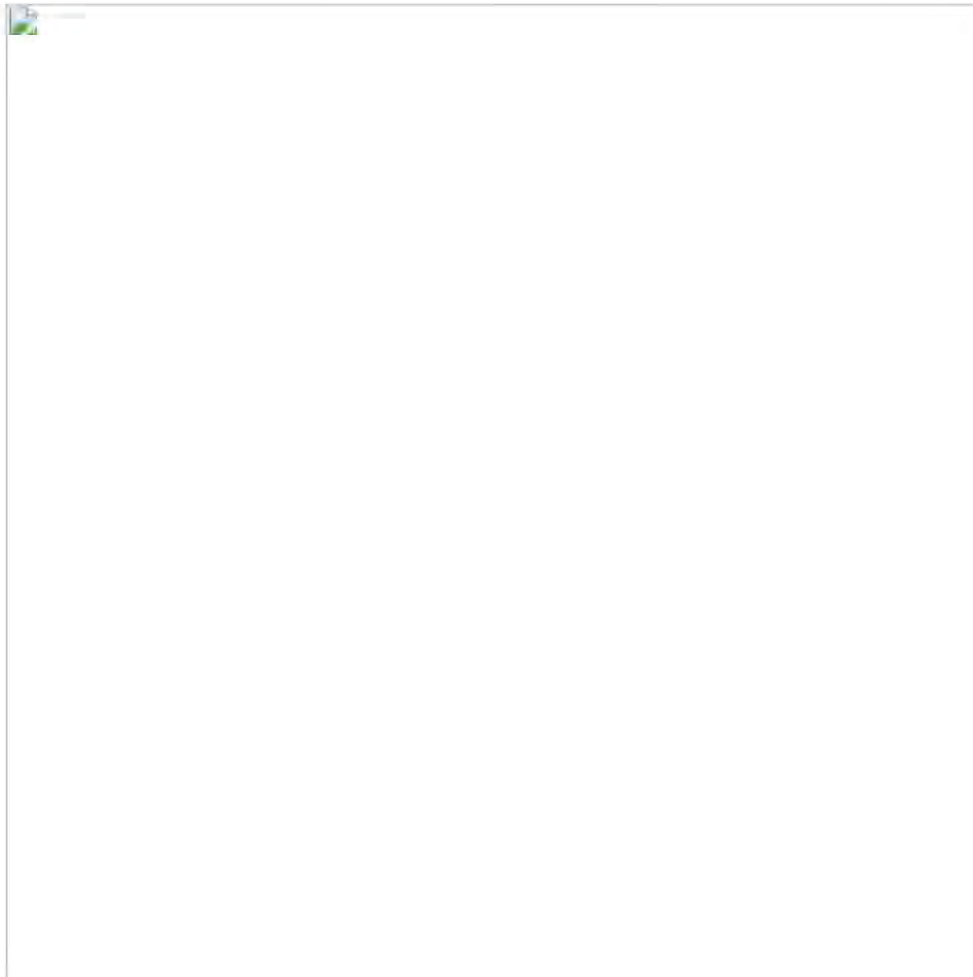
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[External]CORRECTION: Ohio Redistricting Commission Announces Dates for Regional Public Hearings

From: From the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus <mallory.golski@ohiosenate.gov>
To: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Fri, 13 Aug 2021 15:21:55 -0400

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2021

****CORRECTION:** The original press release included a typo in the room number for the public hearing hosted at Cleveland State University. The document attached in this press release includes the correct room number. Please use this information instead.

Ohio Redistricting Commission Announces Dates for Regional Public Hearings

COLUMBUS - Today, state Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) and Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima), co-chairs of the Ohio Redistricting Commission ("Commission"), announced the schedule for upcoming regional public hearings. The hearings, which will take place throughout the state from Monday, August 23 through Friday, August 27, will provide Ohioans the opportunity to contribute their ideas on the future of Ohio's state legislative districts by offering public testimony and submitting map proposals.

"The makeup of our state legislative districts will have an impact on Ohio's state and local governments for the next ten years. This is why it's important for Ohioans to have a say in the redistricting process," Sykes said. "Ohioans played a crucial role in increasing transparency when they voted in 2015 and 2018 to reform the way we draw our statewide maps. I look forward to hearing what Ohioans have to say during our hearings and taking their input into consideration when creating maps that best represent voters' preferences."

The hearings will take place on the following days:

- Monday, August 23 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Cleveland
- Monday, August 23 from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Youngstown
- Tuesday, August 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Dayton
- Tuesday, August 24 from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Cincinnati
- Wednesday, August 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Zanesville
- Wednesday, August 25 from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Rio Grande
- Thursday, August 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Lima
- Thursday, August 26 from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Toledo
- Friday, August 27 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Akron
- Friday, August 27 from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.: Mansfield

The full list of dates, times and locations for the hearings can be found [here](#). Hearings will also be broadcast live, and more information will be made available about how the public can tune in closer to the hearing dates.

"Ohio's process to create fair and reasonable state legislative and congressional districts includes the opportunity for the people of Ohio to be heard on the matter," Speaker Cupp said. "As a co-chair of the commission, I believe it's important to open the process for input from Ohio's citizens. The information and ideas gathered will be helpful to our important constitutional task."

These public hearings are just the beginning of the redistricting process for state legislative districts. More hearings will be scheduled once a map has been proposed by the Commission. The Ohio Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing legislative maps and may also have a role in the drawing of congressional maps. It is composed of Senator Sykes, Speaker Cupp, House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes (D-Akron), Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima), Governor Mike DeWine, Auditor Keith Faber and Secretary of State Frank LaRose.

Senate Contact: Mallory Golski, 614-466-5899

House Contact: Aaron Mulvey, 614-466-8759

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[External]Finalized Public Schedule

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <sbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 15:35:57 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission - regional hearing schedule (internal).docx (30.7 kB); 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission - regional hearing schedule (public).docx (21.7 kB); Cleveland State University (Campus Map).pdf (1.93 MB); Cleveland State University (Campus Parking Map).pdf (424.01 kB); OSU-Lima (Campus Map).pdf (120.11 kB); OSU-Mansfield (Campus Map).pdf (230.97 kB); OU-Zanesville (Campus Map).pdf (552.26 kB); Rio Grande (Campus Map).pdf (2.39 MB); Sinclair Community College - Dayton (Campus Map).pdf (503.83 kB); Sinclair Community College - Dayton (Sinclair Conference Center Map).pdf (213.27 kB); University of Akron (Campus Map).pdf (294.34 kB); University of Cincinnati (1819 Innovation Hub Map & Event Parking).pdf (2.53 MB); University of Toledo (Campus Map).pdf (6.42 MB); Youngstown State University (Campus Map - Customized).pdf (957.14 kB); Youngstown State University (Campus Map).pdf (446.34 kB)

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All:

Please find attached a finalized public schedule. Attached are all of the maps which should accompany the public schedule as well.

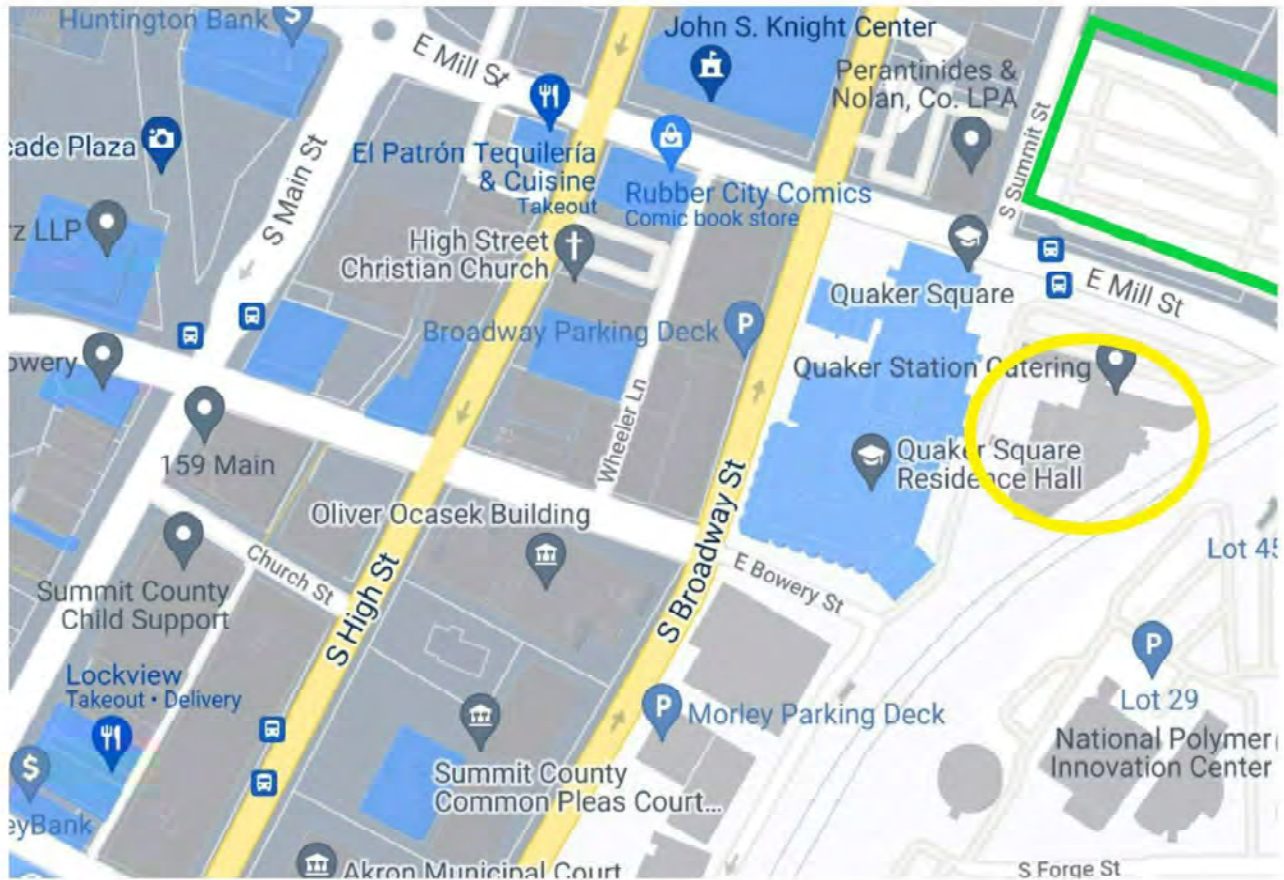
Also attached is an (almost) finalized internal schedule. I'm still waiting to hear back from some of the caucuses on what members and staff will be attending, and there are some non-public details on the internal schedule from the universities to be confirmed on the host site end.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
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[External]FW: [Test] PRESS RELEASE: Ohio Redistricting Commission Launches Redistricting.Ohio.Gov

From: "Golski, Mallory" <mallory.golski@ohiosenate.gov>
To: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, mgradhaus@ohiosos.gov, coliveti@ohiosos.gov
Date: Fri, 20 Aug 2021 09:43:59 -0400

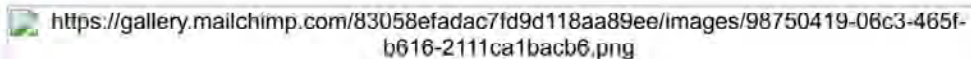
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Good morning,

See below the press release that Co-chairs Cupp and Sykes will be sending out at 10 a.m. to announce the launch of the Ohio Redistricting Commission's website. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mallory Golski
She/Her/Hers
Deputy Communications Director
Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus
Mallory.Golski@ohiosenate.gov | 614-466-5899



<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/83058efadac7fd9d118aa89ee/images/98750419-06c3-465f-b616-2111ca1bacb6.png>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2021

Ohio Redistricting Commission Launches Redistricting.Ohio.Gov

Columbus – Today, state Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) and Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima), co-chairs of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, announced the launch of the Commission's website. The website, which can be found at www.redistricting.ohio.gov, includes information about how members of the public can watch commission hearings and submit map proposals and written testimony.

"There are many ways members of the public can participate in the redistricting process, even if they cannot attend an in-person hearing. This website is a great resource for all who wish to be involved," Senator Sykes said. "Ohio's legislative maps will have an impact on everyone in our state, so I encourage everyone to visit the website, stay informed and testify or submit map proposals."

In addition to providing details about dates and locations for the Commission's upcoming regional public hearings, the website provides access to witness slips for Ohioans who are interested in testifying in-person or submitting written testimony to the Commission. The website also provides access to 2020 U.S. Census data, which members of the public can use to create map proposals of their own. Maps can be uploaded to the website as ZIP files.

"The website is an additional platform where Ohioans from across the state can engage and the Commission can receive input on this important issue," Speaker Cupp said. "This will provide another layer of transparency and avenue of communication for the public as we continue our work through a fair redistricting process."

From Monday, August 23 through Friday, August 27, the Commission will host a series of regional public hearings so Ohioans can share their thoughts on the future of the state's legislative districts. The Commission's primary responsibility is to draw legislative maps, so Ohioans who wish to testify during the public hearings are asked to limit their comments to the adoption of Ohio House and Ohio Senate districts.

The events will be live-streamed by the Ohio Channel, and all live and archived videos will be accessible through the Redistricting Commission website. Information about when and where the hearings will be held can be found at www.redistricting.ohio.gov/meetings.

Senate Contact: Mallory Golski, 614-466-5899

House Contact: Aaron Mulvey, 614-466-8759



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[External]Ohio Redistricting Commission - Regional Hearing Schedule update for Toledo location

From: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
To: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Oliveti, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Tue, 24 Aug 2021 13:25:54 -0400
Attachments: Redistricting Commission notice - Toledo hearing location change.docx (248.34 kB)

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Hello all,
On behalf of Co-chair Sykes, please see the attached memo to members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission regarding a location change for the Toledo regional hearing scheduled for this Thursday.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

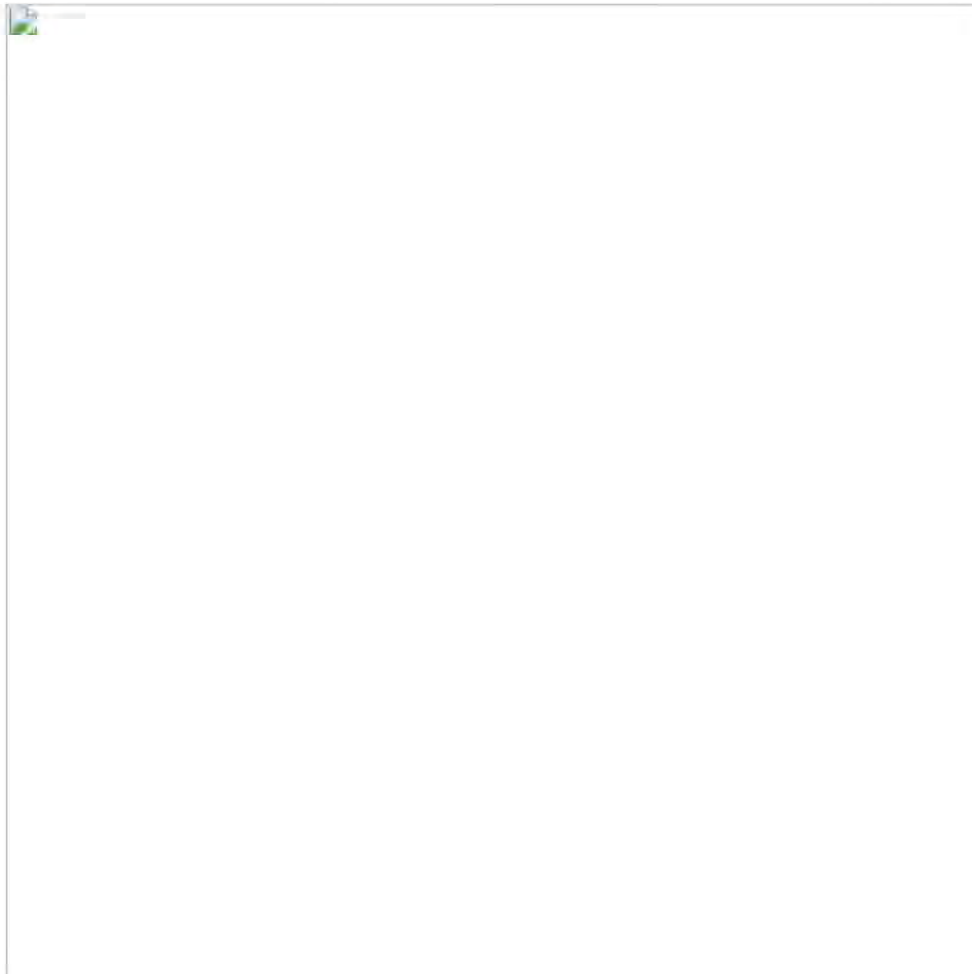
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Thank you.

[External]PRESS RELEASE: Ohio Redistricting Commission Announces Dates for Regional Public Hearings

From: From the Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus <mallory.golski@ohiosenate.gov>
To: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Fri, 13 Aug 2021 10:44:16 -0400

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2021

Ohio Redistricting Commission Announces Dates for Regional Public Hearings

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- Friday, August 27 from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.: Mansfield

The full list of dates, times and locations for the hearings can be found [here](#). Hearings will also be broadcast live, and more information will be made available about how the public can tune in closer to the hearing dates.

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Senate Contact: Mallory Golski, 614-466-5899

House Contact: Aaron Mulvey, 614-466-8759

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[External] Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, sarah.cherry@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2021 13:51:07 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission - proposed regional hearing schedule.pdf.docx (18.05 kB)

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All:

In follow-up to a conversation the legislative leaders had last week, we put together a proposed schedule (below and attached) of public hearings for the Ohio Redistricting Commission and have made initial inquiries to potential host sites. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Heather Blessing (614.466.9194; heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov)

David Reedy (614.466.8047; david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov)

2021 OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION - PROPOSED REGIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE

Monday, August 23, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Cleveland	Cleveland State University 2121 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Youngstown	Youngstown State University 1 University Plaza Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0002
Tuesday, August 24, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Dayton	Wright State University 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway Dayton, OH 45435
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Cincinnati	University of Cincinnati 2600 Clifton Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
Wednesday, August 25, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Zanesville	Ohio University – Zanesville

		1425 Newark Road Zanesville, OH 45701
3:00PM – 5:00PM	Rio Grande	Rio Grande Community College 218 N. College Ave, Rio Grande, OH 45674
Thursday, August 26, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Lima	Ohio State University – Lima 4240 Campus Drive Lima, Ohio 45804
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Toledo	University of Toledo 2801 Bancroft Street Toledo, Ohio 43606

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
Mobile: 614.352.5819
Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

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[External] Proposed Rules for Thursday

From: "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>
To: matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Tue, 24 Aug 2021 11:47:16 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules - Draft.docx (32.16 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

All,

As a follow up from last week, attached are the draft rules that we are hoping to adopt on Thursday at the Lima meeting. We are sending them to you now so that your offices have time to review them before Thursday.

As I mentioned, the House and Senate democratic caucuses have been advocating for adopting the Commission's rules on Thursday. We believe the attached rules should enable us to do that, on a bipartisan basis.

Please note, however, there appears to be 1 issue in the attached draft that is not completely resolved yet; specifically, the 2nd paragraph in Rule 10. Staff for the senate democratic caucus has requested that the rule require 3 public hearings to be held **prior to September 1**. As I have discussed again with them, because of the 4+ month delay in receiving the census data, having a map introduced, considered at 3 public hearings and voted on by September 1 is not realistically possible.

Consequently, we are proposing instead that there be 3 public hearings (the Constitution only requires 1) **prior to adoption on September 15**. Paul and I believe that this idea is much more realistic and doable. And from what Paul has told me, staff for the House democratic caucus agree. Thus, if the Senate democratic caucus can agree to this, the Rules should be ready to go on Thursday.

In the meantime, we wanted your offices to see the latest draft as soon as possible.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the attached rules.

Frank

FRANK M. STRIGARI
Chief Legal Counsel
Ohio Senate
Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 995-4868
Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov

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[External] Proposed schedule revisions


From: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
To: christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, mmadrid@ohiosos.gov, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Fri, 06 Aug 2021 16:06:19 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Ohio Redistricting Commission - Dem. proposed regional hrg. schedule.docx (20.77 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Dear Christine and Heather,

On behalf of Senator Sykes, please find attached a revised proposal for the Ohio Redistricting Commission regional meeting schedule. When Sen. Sykes talked to Speaker Cupp earlier today, Sen. Sykes indicated that he would be sending suggested revisions. The meeting time slots are now 3 hours each. This is to allow up to 3 hours per meeting if needed. The meetings would not necessarily need to be 3 hours long. Please call me if any questions. Thanks.
George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it. Alternatively, this message and any attachments herein may contain information that may be confidential, protected by the attorney-client or other applicable privileges, or constitute non-public information. This message and attachments are intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful. Thank you.

[External]RE: Internal schedule - updated 8/20/2021 @ 3:55PM

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov, traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Fri, 20 Aug 2021 16:06:54 -0400

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Apparently not everyone received the maps I sent because the attachments were too big. They are available here:
https://lisstateohus-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/goplegal_ohiohouse_gov/Ej0oaHW2BXPqEtjpY7XHyABe-opelbmYwi0eWCQPRXrw?e=T9pU9b

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
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From: Blessing, Heather
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Herd, Samantha <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; George Boas <George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov>; DiPalma, Andy <Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov>; David Reedy <David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov>; Traevon Leak <traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: RE: Internal schedule - updated 8/20/2021 @ 3:55PM

And the maps

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
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From: Blessing, Heather

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 3:58 PM

To: Herd, Samantha <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; George Boas <George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov>; DiPalma, Andy <Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov>; David Reedy <David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov>; Traevon Leak <traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov>

Subject: Internal schedule - updated 8/20/2021 @ 3:55PM

All:

Attached is the updated internal schedule for the redistricting meetings.

Additions – minor grammar corrections, update maps, additional contacts, staff and attendees updated.

-Heather

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
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[External]RE: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, sarah.cherry@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Thu, 05 Aug 2021 10:47:26 -0400

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Dear Sam:

We will certainly add a stop in Akron on Monday, 8/23. To lessen the drive time, it might make more sense to see if Youngstown can host their meeting in the evening and fit in Akron in the 2-4 time slot. We will firm up details and recirculate.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
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From: Herd, Samantha <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>; Cherry, Sarah <Sarah.Cherry@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; DiPalma, Andy <Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: David Reedy <David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: RE: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

Good morning,

Thanks for putting this together. Given the population density of NE Ohio, it is possible to add an Akron/Canton stop? Maybe Monday evening?

Thanks,
Sam

From: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Herd, Samantha <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>; Cherry, Sarah <Sarah.Cherry@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine

<Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: David Reedy <David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

All:

In follow-up to a conversation the legislative leaders had last week, we put together a proposed schedule (below and attached) of public hearings for the Ohio Redistricting Commission and have made initial inquiries to potential host sites. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Heather Blessing (614.466.9194; heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov)
 David Reedy (614.466.8047; david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov)

2021 OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION - PROPOSED REGIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE

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[External]RE: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

From: matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov
To: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, sarah.cherry@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov
Cc: david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Thu, 05 Aug 2021 17:01:56 -0400
Attachments: Redist Conv. Agenda_.pdf (10.19 kB); Redistricting Commission Oath draft 1.pdf (18.8 kB)

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For purposes of the convening meeting tomorrow. Please find attached 1) an agenda of the convening and 2 a copy of the Oath of Office. If anyone has any questions please feel free to call me.

Respectfully,

Matt



Matthew J. Donahue
Chief Legal Counsel
Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
(614) 644-0825
matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov
www.governor.ohio.gov

From: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Herd, Samantha <SAMANTHA.HERD@OHIOHOUSE.GOV>; Cherry, Sarah <Sarah.Cherry@ohiohouse.gov>; Rowe, Michael <MIKE.ROWE@OHIOSENATE.GOV>; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov; Strigari, Francis <FRANK.STRIGARI@OHIOSENATE.GOV>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; Donahue, Matthew <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <PAUL.DISANTIS@OHIOHOUSE.GOV>; Bilchak, Alex <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Dipalma, Andrew <ANDY.DIPALMA@OHIOHOUSE.GOV>
Cc: David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Subject: RE: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

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PRR_0921

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To: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>; Cherry, Sarah <Sarah.Cherry@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; DiPalma, Andy <Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov>
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David Reedy (614.466.8047; david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov)

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CONVENING OF THE OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

AGENDA
August 6, 2021

1. Governor calls meeting to order.
2. Presentation of any member appointments to the Ohio Redistricting Commission; order that any new appointments be entered in record of proceedings.
3. Administration of the Oath of Office.
 - a. Governor administers the Oath of Office to Members of Commission.
 - b. Secretary of State then administers the Oath of Office to Governor.
4. Roll Call; Governor declares quorum present.
4. Filing of Certificate of Compliance with public meeting notice provisions of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code.
5. Presentation of Co-Chairperson appointments to the Ohio Redistricting Commission; order that any new appointments be entered in record of proceedings.
6. Governor turns the meeting over to the Co-Chairpersons.
7. Scheduling

OATH OF OFFICE

I, _____, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office, as a Member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission on which I serve pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution. This I shall do as I shall answer unto God.

(Appointee)

**STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN**

Personally sworn to before me, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio pursuant to Revised Code Section 3.24 in Franklin County and subscribed to in my presence this 6th day of August, 2021.

**Mike DeWine
Governor of the State of Ohio**

[External]RE: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

From: samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov
To: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, sarah.cherry@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov
Date: Thu, 05 Aug 2021 10:23:14 -0400

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Good morning,

Thanks for putting this together. Given the population density of NE Ohio, it is possible to add an Akron/Canton stop? Maybe Monday evening?

Thanks.
Sam

From: Blessing, Heather <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Herd, Samantha <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>; Cherry, Sarah <Sarah.Cherry@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike Rowe <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott Stockman <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Morrison, Christine <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; John Barron <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank Strigari <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Disantis, Paul <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: David Reedy <David.Reedy@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: Proposed Ohio Redistricting Commission Regional Hearing Schedule

All:

In follow-up to a conversation the legislative leaders had last week, we put together a proposed schedule (below and attached) of public hearings for the Ohio Redistricting Commission and have made initial inquiries to potential host sites. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Heather Blessing (614.466.9194; heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov)
David Reedy (614.466.8047; david.reedy@ohiosenate.gov)

2021 OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION - PROPOSED REGIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE

Monday, August 23, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Cleveland	Cleveland State University 2121 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44115
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Youngstown	Youngstown State University 1 University Plaza Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0002

Tuesday, August 24, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Dayton	Wright State University 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway Dayton, OH 45435
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Cincinnati	University of Cincinnati 2600 Clifton Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
Wednesday, August 25, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Zanesville	Ohio University – Zanesville 1425 Newark Road Zanesville, OH 43701
3:00PM – 5:00PM	Rio Grande	Rio Grande Community College 218 N. College Ave, Rio Grande, OH 45674
Thursday, August 26, 2021		
10:00AM – 12:00PM	Lima	Ohio State University – Lima 4240 Campus Drive Lima, Ohio 45804
2:00PM – 4:00PM	Toledo	University of Toledo 2801 Bancroft Street Toledo, Ohio 43606

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
Mobile: 614.352.5819
Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

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[External]RE: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

From: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>
To: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Olivet, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 18 Aug 2021 12:55:28 -0400

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Heather,

Thank you.

I wanted to make you and others on the commission aware of the message I received from Jen Miller with the Ohio League of Women Voters today.

Specifically, she said "lots of confusion about the hearings next week. It's unclear how to submit testimony and there are some of the locations don't have an exact building/address (sic)" and "We [the LWV] are getting lots of emails and calls."

I told her I would relay those concerns to the co-chairs of the commission.

Thanks!

-Merle



Merle Madrid | Chief of Staff
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

O: 614.728.9132
OhioSoS.gov

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From: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 15:25
To: Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov; Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov; Madrid, Merle <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

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PRR_0928

All:

Please find attached an updated working schedule of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We continue to fill in details and will recirculate a finalized version by the end of the week (all dates, times, and general locations are confirmed, however).

We would appreciate if you let us know by Friday morning if your respective Commission member plans on attend any of the hearings, or if they plan on sending a designee, so that we can prepare name plates in advance and advise university site hosts appropriately.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

~~Heather N. Blessing, Esq.~~
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
Mobile: 614.352.5819
Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

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[External]Re: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

From: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>
To: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
Cc: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Olivet, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 18 Aug 2021 16:28:02 -0400

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Thanks, George. -Merle

On Aug 18, 2021, at 14:13, Boas, George <George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov> wrote:

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Merle,

Thank you for sharing Jen Miller's message with us. Mike Rowe, our chief of staff, reached out to her on behalf of Co-chair Sykes.

George

George Boas

Deputy Chief of Staff

Senate Democratic Caucus

Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215

T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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From: Madrid, Merle [mailto:mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov; Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Rowe, Mike; Stockman, Scott; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; Barron, John; Strigari, Frank; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov';

PRR_0930

Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov'; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Boas, George;
Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Grodhaus, Michael; Oliveti, Chris
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

Heather,

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I told her I would relay those concerns to the co-chairs of the commission.

Thanks!

-Merle



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Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 15:25
To: Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov; Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov; Madrid, Merle <mMadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

PRR_0931

****Secretary of State Security Notice****
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All:

Please find attached an updated working schedule of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We continue to fill in details and will recirculate a finalized version by the end of the week (all dates, times, and general locations are confirmed, however).

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Sincerely,

Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.

Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker

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Office: 614.466.9194

Mobile: 614.352.5819

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PRR_0932

[External]RE: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

From: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>
To: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Oliveti, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Fri, 19 Aug 2021 12:48:09 -0400

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All-

Secretary LaRose will be on orders with the US Army next week.

He will be represented by staff at each hearing.

Monday in Cleveland and Youngstown
Merle Madrid, Chief of Staff

Tuesday in Dayton and Cincinnati
D. Michael Grodhaus, Chief Legal Counsel

Wednesday in Zanesville and Rio Grande and
Thursday in Lima and Toledo
Chris Oliveti, Director of Legislative Affairs

Friday in Akron and Mansfield
Jeananne Chadsey, Deputy Chief of Staff

Thanks so much!

-Merle

From: Boas, George <George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 14:13
To: Madrid, Merle <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov; Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Rowe, Mike <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Stockman, Scott <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; Barron, John <John.Barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Strigari, Frank <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Grodhaus, Michael <mgrodhaus@OhioSOS.Gov>; Oliveti, Chris <coliveti@OhioSOS.Gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

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Merle,
Thank you for sharing Jen Miller's message with us. Mike Rowe, our chief of staff, reached out to her on behalf of Co-chair Sykes.
George

PRR_0933

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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From: Madrid, Merle [<mailto:mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:55 PM

To: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov; Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Rowe, Mike; Stockman, Scott; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; Barron, John; Strigari, Frank; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov'; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov'; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Boas, George; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; Grodhaus, Michael; Oliveti, Chris

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

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Specifically, she said "lots of confusion about the hearings next week. It's unclear how to submit testimony and there are some of the locations don't have an exact building/address (sic)" and "We [the LWV] are getting lots of emails and calls."

I told her I would relay those concerns to the co-chairs of the commission.

Thanks!

-Merle



Merle Madrid | Chief of Staff
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

☎ 614.728.9132
OhioSoS.gov

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From: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 15:25

To: Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov; Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov; Madrid, Merle <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission Regional Hearing Schedule (internal) as of 8/17/21

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PRR_0934

All:

Please find attached an updated working schedule of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We continue to fill in details and will recirculate a finalized version by the end of the week (all dates, times, and general locations are confirmed, however).

We would appreciate if you let us know by Friday morning if your respective Commission member plans on attend any of the hearings, or if they plan on sending a designee, so that we can prepare name plates in advance and advise university site hosts appropriately.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
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To: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Oliveti, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 18 Aug 2021 14:12:49 -0400

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Merle,
Thank you for sharing Jen Miller's message with us. Mike Rowe, our chief of staff, reached out to her on behalf of Co-chair Sykes.
George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Office of the Ohio Secretary of State



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To: Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov; Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov; Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov; Madrid, Merle <mMadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov; 'asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov' <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov; George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov
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finish redistricting commission document

When: Wed Oct 21 09:00:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Until: Wed Oct 21 09:30:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily E. Kaylor </o=aos/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=emily e. kaylor383">

FW: [External]Letter to Governor DeWine

From: Thomas E. Hancock <tehancock@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Mon, 02 Aug 2021 12:28:38 -0400
Attachments: Letter to DeWine re Redistricting.pdf (225.15 kB); Tom Hancock.vcf (17.03 kB)

FYI, I didn't see you listed as a recipient.



From: Hunter, Patrick <Patrick.Hunter@ohiosenate.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Dan.Mccarthy@governor.ohio.gov; Ciara.Price@governor.ohio.gov
Cc: Sykes, Vernon <Vernon.Sykes@ohiosenate.gov>; Thomas E. Hancock <TEHancock@ohioauditor.gov>; James M. Coyne <JMCoyne@ohioauditor.gov>; 'coliveti@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov' <coliveti@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov>; 'lmartine@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov' <lmartine@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov>; Huffman, Matt <Matt.Huffman@ohiosenate.gov>; 'rep04@ohiohouse.gov' <rep04@ohiohouse.gov>; 'rep34@ohiohouse.gov' <rep34@ohiohouse.gov>; Clerk Staff <ClerkStaff@ohiosenate.gov>
Subject: [External]Letter to Governor DeWine

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Governor DeWine,

Please find the attached letter from Ohio Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko regarding the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

Feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Patrick Hunter
Special Advisor to the Minority Leader
Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus
P: 614.466.4583
Patrick.Hunter@ohiosenate.gov



Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
25th Senate District
(614) 466-4583

Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

August 2, 2021

Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor
Riffe Center
77 S High St 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio Redistricting Commission

Dear Governor DeWine,

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1 (A) of the Ohio Constitution, I hereby appoint state Senator Vernon Sykes to serve on the Ohio Redistricting Commission. We look forward to working with you in an open, transparent manner to draw maps that respect the wishes of Ohio's voters and minimize partisan gerrymandering in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenny Yuko".

KENNY YUKO
Minority Leader
Ohio Senate

CC:

Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman
Speaker of Ohio House Bob Cupp
Minority Leader of Ohio House Emilia Sykes
Ohio Senate Clerk Vincent Keeran

FW: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

From: State Region <stateregion@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Deborah L. Liddil <dlliddil@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Mon, 14 Jun 2021 16:33:39 -0400
Attachments: Jacquie McKee.vcf (16.7 KB)

Hi, Emily.

We received the inquiry below in the State Region's email account – do you know the status of this? Thought I would start with you before digging around. 😊

Thanks.



From: Ryan Kelley <ryank22798@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:42 PM
To: State Region <stateregion@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Hi Auditor of State Faber,

Have you heard anything about Gov. DeWine convening the redistricting commission? I thought the deadline was June 1, but I haven't seen a press release yet.

Thanks
Ryan Kelley

4961 archdale Ln, Columbus, OH 43214

--

Ryan P. Kelley
ryank22798@gmail.com
(216) 905-9394

put together redistricting commission one-pager

When: Mon Aug 17 10:30:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Until: Mon Aug 17 11:00:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily E. Kaylor <"/o=aos/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=emily e. kaylor383">
Required Attendees: Emily E. Kaylor <eekaylor@ohioauditor.gov>

RE: Ohio redistricting commission

From: Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>
To: ryank22798@gmail.com
Date: Mon, 14 Jun 2021 16:58:02 -0400

Mr. Kelley –

I was forwarded your email below. In response to your question, no, we have not heard anything.

Best,
Emily



From: Ryan Kelley <ryank22798@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:42 PM
To: State Region <staterregion@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Hi Auditor of State Faber,

Have you heard anything about Gov. DeWine convening the redistricting commission? I thought the deadline was June 1, but I haven't seen a press release yet.

Thanks
Ryan Kelley

4961 archdale Ln, Columbus, OH 43214

--

Ryan P. Kelley
ryank22798@gmail.com
(216) 905-9394

RE: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

From: Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>
To: State Region <stateregion@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Deborah L. Liddil <dliddil@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Mon, 14 Jun 2021 16:35:24 -0400

Thanks, Jacquie! I will take care of responding to Ryan.

Emily

From: State Region <stateregion@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Emily Redman <ERedman@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Deborah L. Liddil <DLiddil@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: FW: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

Hi, Emily.

We received the inquiry below in the State Region's email account – do you know the status of this? Thought I would start with you before digging around. ☺

Thanks.



From: Ryan Kelley <ryank22798@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:42 PM
To: State Region <stateregion@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: [External]Ohio redistricting commission

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Hi Auditor of State Faber,

Have you heard anything about Gov. DeWine convening the redistricting commission? I thought the deadline was June 1, but I haven't seen a press release yet.

Thanks
Ryan Kelley

4961 archdale Ln, Columbus, OH 43214

--

Ryan P. Kelley
ryank22798@gmail.com
(216) 905-9394

redistricting commission one-pager

When: Mon Aug 24 13:30:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Until: Mon Aug 24 14:00:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily E. Kaylor </o=aos/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=emily e. kaylor383">

redistricting commission

Where: Senate Finance
When: Fri Aug 06 09:00:00 2021 (America/New_York)
Until: Fri Aug 06 09:30:00 2021 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily Redman </o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=ab547478ea8b479e83e7f8042a82a55d-emily e. ka">
Required Attendees: Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>

Senate Gov Oversight and Reform

Where: South
When: Thu May 16 10:00:00 2019 (America/New_York)
Until: Thu May 16 11:00:00 2019 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily E. Kaylor <"/o=aos/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=emily e. kaylor383">
Required Attendees: Emily E. Kaylor <eekaylor@ohioauditor.gov>

Update on congressional redistricting

summary of redistricting commission

When: Tue Oct 20 11:00:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Until: Tue Oct 20 11:30:00 2020 (America/New_York)
Organisers Emily E. Kaylor <"/o=aos/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=emily e. kaylor383">
Required Attendees: Emily E. Kaylor <eekaylor@ohioauditor.gov>

updated budget items list

From: Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Thomas E. Hancock <tehancock@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Thu, 01 Jul 2021 17:01:34 -0400
Attachments: As Enacted Budget Items Impacting AOS.xlsx (19.52 kB)

Decided against school funding and the tax bracket stuff – they're both heavy in the news and most people know about them. Let me know what you think.





Matt Huffman
Senate President

Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-7584

To: Vincent Keeran, Clerk
From: Senator Matt Huffman, President
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: Appointment to Ohio Redistricting Commission

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A)(6) of the Ohio Constitution, the President of the Senate appoints the following individual to the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Matthew C. Huffman

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A) of the Ohio Constitution, the President of the Ohio Senate hereby joins with the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives in appointing the following individual to serve as the co-chairperson of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Robert R. Cupp

cc: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
Ohio Auditor Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Ohio House of Representatives Minority Leader Emilia Sykes

[External]Co-Chairperson Appointment: Ohio Redistricting Commission

From: sheila.boehner@ohiohouse.gov
To: brad.young@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: ali.sagraves@ohiohouse.gov, mary.chambers@ohiohouse.gov, daniel.cech@ohiohouse.gov, kelsey.culbertson@ohiohouse.gov, bob.cupp@ohiohouse.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, will.hinman@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mindy.spain@ohiohouse.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, "Meden, Averel" <averel.meden@ohiosenate.gov>, Clerk Staff <clerkstaff@ohiosenate.gov>, Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>, "Olivet, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>, jen.thrasher@governor.ohio.gov, ciara.price@governor.ohio.gov, aaron.mulvey@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2021 12:24:32 -0400
Attachments: Ohio Redistricting Commission - 8.4.2021.pdf (326.2 kB)

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Dear Mr. Young,

Attached, please find a letter from the Speaker.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Sheila

Sheila Willamowski Boehner, Esq.

Deputy Chief of Staff/Executive Counsel to the Speaker

Ohio House of Representatives

77 S. High Street - 14th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office: 614.466.9068

Sheila.Boehner@ohiohouse.gov

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ROBERT R. CUPP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 04



77 S. HIGH STREET, 14TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43125
REP04@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

To: Brad Young, Clerk
From: Robert R. Cupp, Speaker of the House
Date: August 4, 2021
Re: Appointment – Ohio Redistricting Commission

Pursuant to Article XI Section 01(A) of the Ohio Constitution, the Speaker of the House hereby joins with the President of the Senate in appointing the following individual to serve as co-chairperson of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

APPOINT: Robert R. Cupp

[External]Ohio Redistricting Comms - Leader Sykes Appointment

From: mindy.spain@ohiohouse.gov
To: "Ciara Price (Ciara.Price@governor.ohio.gov)" <ciara.price@governor.ohio.gov>
Cc: Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>, Thomas E. Hancock <tehancock@ohioauditor.gov>, James M. Coyne <jmcoyne@ohioauditor.gov>, coliveti@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov, laura.martine@ohiosecretaryofstate.gov, matt.huffman@ohiosenate.gov, adam.pohlabel@ohiosenate.gov, richard.gonzales@ohiosenate.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, sheila.boehner@ohiohouse.gov, sd25@ohiosenate.gov, miranda.lange@ohiosenate.gov, kate.osterback@ohiosenate.gov, patrick.hunter@ohiosenate.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, brad.young@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2021 12:00:16 -0400
Attachments: Ohio Redistricting Comms - Leader Sykes Appointment.pdf (154.34 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Good Afternoon,

Please find the attached letter for Governor DeWine's attention.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Mindy

Mindy Spain

Legislative Aide | House District 34
Office of Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High St., Columbus OH 43215
Direct: 614-644-1798 | Main: 614-466-3100 | mindy.spain@ohiohouse.gov

Connect with Leader Sykes—Subscribe to the District34 E-Newsletter by clicking [here](#).



**Representative Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader**

August 4, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 1(A)(5) of the Ohio Constitution, I am using my appointing authority to appoint myself to the Ohio Redistricting Commission.

I look forward to an open and transparent process during our important work of creating fair districts for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Strong Sykes".

Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader
Ohio House District 34

cc: Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber
Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose
Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman
Speaker of Ohio House Bob Cupp
Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Brad Young, House Clerk

www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Office: 614-466-3100
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
Fax: 614-719-6968
Email: Rep34@ohiohouse.gov

PRR_0955

[External]Speaker's Appointment: Ohio Redistricting Commission

From: sheila.boehner@ohiohouse.gov
To: brad.young@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: ali.sagraves@ohiohouse.gov, mary.chambers@ohiohouse.gov, daniel.cech@ohiohouse.gov, kelsey.culbertson@ohiohouse.gov, bob.cupp@ohiohouse.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, will.hinman@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mindy.spain@ohiohouse.gov, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, "Meden, Averel" <averel.meden@ohiosenate.gov>, Clerk Staff <clerkstaff@ohiosenate.gov>, Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>, "Olivet, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>, jen.thrasher@governor.ohio.gov, ciara.price@governor.ohio.gov, aaron.mulvey@ohiohouse.gov
Date: Tue, 03 Aug 2021 14:22:39 -0400
Attachments: Ohio Redistricting Commission - 8.3.2021.pdf (325.46 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Dear Mr. Young,

Attached, please find a letter from the Speaker.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Sheila

Sheila Willamowski Boehner, Esq.

Deputy Chief of Staff/Executive Counsel to the Speaker

Ohio House of Representatives

77 S. High Street - 14th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Office: 614.466.9068

Sheila.Boehner@ohiohouse.gov

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ROBERT R. CUPP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 04



77 S. HIGH STREET, 14TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43125
REP04@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

To: Brad Young, Clerk
From: Robert R. Cupp, Speaker of the House
Date: August 3, 2021
Re: Appointment – Ohio Redistricting Commission

Pursuant to Article XI Section 01(A)(4) of the Ohio Constitution, the Speaker of the House hereby appoints the following individual to the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

APPOINT: Robert R. Cupp

[External]Thomas sent a message

From: Thomas E. Hancock in Teams <noreply@gcc-email.teams.microsoft.com>
To: Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2021 18:10:24 -0400

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Hi,

Your teammates are trying to reach you in [Microsoft Teams](#).



Thomas sent a message in chat

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/23/ohio-gov-mike-dewine-skips-redistricting-hearing-attend-bengals->


Reply in Teams

Install Microsoft Teams now



 iOS



 Android

This email was sent from an unmonitored mailbox. Update your email preferences in Teams. Profile picture > Settings > Notifications.

PRR_0958

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Read our [privacy policy](#).



RE: Website Launch Press Release

From: Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>, Keith L. Faber <klfaber@ohioauditor.gov>, faberlaw@bright.net
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 16:24:20 -0400

Good by me – thanks

From: Allie J. Dumski <AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Sloan T. Spalding <STSpalding@ohioauditor.gov>; Keith L. Faber <KLFaber@ohioauditor.gov>; faberlaw@bright.net
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <MREiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: Website Launch Press Release

Attached is the draft press release for the new redistricting commission website. Please let me know if any edits are needed.

Thanks,
Allie



Website Launch Press Release

From: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>, Keith L. Faber <klfaber@ohioauditor.gov>, faberlaw@bright.net
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 15:44:40 -0400
Attachments: redistrict website press release.docx (168.77 kB)

Attached is the draft press release for the new redistricting commission website. Please let me know if any edits are needed.

Thanks,
Allie





Public Affairs
Contact: Allie Dumski
Press Secretary
614-867-1770

For Immediate Release:

August 20, 2021

Ohio Redistricting Commission Launches Public Input Website

Columbus – Auditor of State Keith Faber today joins his colleagues on the Ohio Redistricting Commission to announce the launch of www.redistricting.ohio.gov. The website will allow the public to share testimony, draft maps and information with members of the Commission.

“This is an important time for our state and our bipartisan Commission understands that Ohioans want to participate in the process that will eventually help determine who represents their interests in both Columbus and Washington D.C.” said Auditor Faber. “This webpage will ensure that Ohioans have the opportunity to share their ideas, information and concerns for consideration throughout the redistricting process.”

The website will service as a source for the public to submit questions, comments, and ideas.

The Commission is hosting public hearings across the state. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, August 23rd: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Cleveland State University**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Youngstown State University**

Tuesday, August 24th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Sinclair Community College**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **University of Cincinnati**

Wednesday, August 25th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Ohio University – Zanesville Campus**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Rio Grande Community College**

Thursday, August 26th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **Ohio State University – Lima**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **University of Toledo**

Friday, August 27th: 9:30am – 12:30pm **University of Akron**, 2:30pm – 5:30pm **Ohio State University - Mansfield**

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

###

The Auditor of State’s office, one of five independently elected statewide offices in Ohio is responsible for auditing more than 6,000 state and local government agencies. Under the direction of Auditor Keith Faber, the office also provides financial services to local governments, investigates and prevents fraud in public agencies, and promotes transparency in government.

[External]RE: Website Launch Press Release

From: faberlaw@bright.net
To: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>, Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>, Keith L. Faber <klfaber@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Thu, 19 Aug 2021 16:32:32 -0400

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Ok here

From: Allie J. Dumski <AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:45 PM
To: Sloan T. Spalding <STSpalding@ohioauditor.gov>; Keith L. Faber <KLFaber@ohioauditor.gov>; faberlaw@bright.net
Cc: Matthew R. Eiselstein <MREiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: Website Launch Press Release

Attached is the draft press release for the new redistricting commission website. Please let me know if any edits are needed.

Thanks,
Allie



[Facebook](#)

| [Twitter](#)

| [OhioAuditor.gov](#)

brief

From: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2021 12:16:27 -0400
Attachments: media day 8-5.docx (46.46 kB)



2020 Stats:

- Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
- Issued over \$4.8 million in findings for recovery in the last year
- Assisted in 26 convictions in the last year
- 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
- More than 600 tips of suspected fraud
- Expanded eligibility for Basic Audit and AUPs resulting in 80% and 49% in savings for clients

Since taking office stats:

- \$120 in fraud, waste, and abuse
- Assisted in 50 convictions of corrupt office holders
- Saved taxpayers \$400,000 in AOS expenses
- Increased transparency with new StaRS program – 59% of Ohio governments meeting compliance

Hot Topics**Neil Clark**

Recently released a book regarding politics in Ohio.

- Haven't read the book, but I know Neil would say anything to get what he wants done. Warm regards wherever he is.

Renacci

"I'm calling on state auditor Keith Faber to conduct a full investigation into the monies DeWine received from this pay-for-play scandal," Renacci said.

- If the legislature expands my authority to look at this, I would be happy to investigate.

Shontel Brown

In April, The Intercept reported that Brown, a Cuyahoga County Councilmember, had voted to award millions worth of contracts to companies connected to her romantic partner and campaign donors.

- The Attorney General's office consulted us on a case that involved city contracts. We reviewed the complaint and referred it to the Ohio Ethics Commission after determining them the most appropriate agency.

Gang of 5

Last year, the State Auditor's Office recommended an investigation into a criminal misdemeanor charge of dereliction of duty for the five who privately exchanged texts and emails in 2018 and then used taxpayer money to hire outside attorneys to represent themselves. The settlement for the lawsuit cost the city \$176,000 in total: \$90,000 of which went to the law firm that launched the civil suit on behalf of an anti-tax activist. Another \$10,000 paid a statutory forfeiture because

Young said he purposely deleted his text messages. The city paid \$75,000 in legal fees from outside lawyers to represent the city and the five council members in the suit, leaving the Open Meetings Act violation fine at \$1,000.

- The investigation is ongoing but we believe some findings are possibly coming soon from our office.

Ken Johnson

Cleveland city councilman Kenneth Johnson was convicted Friday of corruption and tax charges in a verdict that ended his 40-year career at City Hall. A federal jury found Johnson guilty of 15 counts of corruption and tax charges, deliberating for four hours before announcing its verdict. Johnson faces up to 10 years in prison and is the fifth council member since 2000 convicted of corruption-related offenses committed while in office.

- *Our office is not involved in this investigation. The claims in question are from before my time as auditor.*

Columbus Zoo

There are a number of ongoing reviews and investigations involving the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium following a March report by The Dispatch that uncovered improper use of zoo resources by former CEO and President Tom Stalf and former Chief Financial Officer Greg Bell.

- Our office is involved in an investigation.

HB6/ First energy money

The HB6 investigation into Ohio's largest corruption scheme is all about money and power. The owner of two nuclear power plants in northern Ohio wanted a \$1 billion bailout to keep its plants running. A Republican lawmaker hoping to make a comeback wanted help returning to power. In July 2020, Householder and four allies were arrested on racketeering charges and now face up to 20 years in prison for their alleged crimes. In the months since, Akron-based FirstEnergy has fired executives, a state utility regulator has resigned following a FBI search of his home and federal investigators have continued asking questions.

FirstEnergy, an Akron-based utility giant, gave \$61 million in bribes to Ohio lobbyists and politicians, including former GOP House Speaker Larry Householder, to pass House Bill 6, the \$1.3 billion taxpayer-funded bailout of two nuclear power plants owned by FirstEnergy. Mike DeWine has given back money received by First Energy.

- Not involved with HB 6 – didn't vote on it, didn't have any role

Redistricting

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

- ***“Compact districts that allows ohioans to have representation by people who share their values”***
- The Commission draft the legislative districts and if the legislature can't come to a decision with the first draft of the congressional lines, it comes to the Commission.
- Criteria focus on keeping communities together and increasing transparency.
- The state of Ohio and the U.S. Census Bureau asked a judge on Tuesday to place on hold their court fight over when data used for redrawing congressional and legislative districts will be released. ([AP NEWS](#))
 - As part of a settlement agreement, the Census Bureau promised to release the redistricting data no later than Aug. 16 — a date it had previously picked for releasing the numbers in an older format. The bureau also agreed to provide Ohio with twice-monthly updates on its progress toward meeting that deadline.

Unemployment Compensation System – Fraud/Bad Customer Service

The AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

- 1st to identify the fraud in our state single audit – issued qualified opinion
- \$400 million in fraud and another \$1.7 million in over payments – what constitutes as fraud this is approaching \$2 billion dollars in abuse of our system.
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 - Participation rates
 - Benefits to the state
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- On our website is the CARES Act/COVID-19 resources webpage for local government clients where we track changes in the rules and guidelines on CARES Act funds and provides updates as they become available.
- We have shared guidance on how to use CARES funding as housing assistance and to help small businesses.
- We are still waiting on more information regarding the American Rescue Plan funding that many local governments will receive and will continue our communication and flexibility in our audits to help everyone navigate this changing environment.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was effective March 11, 2021. As part of this Act, the U.S. Treasury will distribute Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds directly to counties and metropolitan cities. Non-metropolitan municipalities (<50,000 population) are classified as non-entitlement units and should expect to receive this funding through the State of Ohio.

- The distribution methodology to counties and metropolitan cities is as follows:
 - Counties are allocated based on each county's population share of the total population of all counties, using the latest available population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Treasury makes use of the 2019 Census for the purposes of this allocation.
 - Each metropolitan city (> 50,000 population) shall receive an amount determined consistent with the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) formula.
- There are broad definitions of allowable uses. In summary, Treasury is providing the State and Local Recovery Fund relief to:
 - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
 - Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
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 - Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the in equal impact of the pandemic

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 - Ways to submit a tip: 1-866-Fraud-OH, fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov, mobile app, mail
 - Once a tip is submitted, SIU evaluates the tip to direct it to the appropriate agency and if it is within AOS authority a special audit or investigation will begin.
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- We recently released a [report](#) with the first year results of the StaRS program. All results are posted [online](#).
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Upcoming Work

- Unemployment performance audit (customer service) and public interest audit (fraud) expected this fall.

RE: brief

From: Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2021 15:06:24 -0400
Attachments: media day 8-5.docx (40.09 kB)

A few suggestions. Didn't have time to get through it all, but hit the ones that jumped out to me.

From: Allie J. Dumski <AJDumski@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Sloan T. Spalding <STSpalding@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: brief



2020 Stats:

- Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
- Issued over \$4.8 million in findings for recovery in the last year
- Assisted in 26 convictions in the last year
- 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
- More than 600 tips of suspected fraud
- Expanded eligibility for Basic Audit and AUPs resulting in 80% and 49% in savings for clients

Since taking office stats:

- \$120 in fraud, waste, and abuse
- Assisted in 50 convictions of corrupt office holders
- Saved taxpayers \$400,000 in AOS expenses
- Increased transparency with new StaRS program – 59% of Ohio governments meeting compliance

Hot Topics**Neil Clark**

Recently released a book regarding politics in Ohio.

- I have not seen nor read the book. But, Neil was a colorful character and master self-promoter. Certainly we didn't see eye-to-eye on a number of things, but such is life. God rest his soul and I feel for his family
- Haven't read the book, but I know Neil would say anything to get what he wants done. Warm regards wherever he is.

Renacci

"I'm calling on state auditor Keith Faber to conduct a full investigation into the monies DeWine received from this pay-for-play scandal," Renacci said.

- [*while displaying a rye smile*] Clearly Mr. Renacci is misinformed about the statutory authority of the Ohio Auditor of State. But, if he and others want to advocate before the Ohio General Assembly for the Auditor of State to have legal authority to investigate and take action on campaign finance activity – I'd be willing to participate in that policy discussion. But until such time, the Auditor of State lacks the statutory authority and jurisdiction to investigate or take action relative to campaign finance activity and Mr. Renacci is barking up the wrong tree.
- If the legislature expands my authority to look at this, I would be happy to investigate.

So who currently has jurisdiction to look into these campaign donations?

In short, the Ohio Elections Commission has primary jurisdiction. Both Secretary of State LaRose and the Ohio Attorney General Yost have made referrals to or advocated for the Ohio Elections Commission to review parts of Larry Householder's campaign finance activity, and I believe those matters are still pending.

Shontel Brown

In April, The Intercept reported that Brown, a Cuyahoga County Councilmember, had voted to award millions worth of contracts to companies connected to her romantic partner and campaign donors.

- The Attorney General's office referred concerns to my office concerning the awarding of significant contracts by the County. We reviewed the complaint and referred it to the Ohio Ethics Commission after determining that the possible violations of law for self-dealing and interest in a public contract fell squarely within the jurisdiction of the Ohio Ethics Commission..
- So what is the status of the Ohio Ethics Commission's case? We don't comment on the status of any matter presently under investigation, you would need to ask the Ohio Ethics Commission for any update.

Gang of 5

Last year, the State Auditor's Office recommended an investigation into a criminal misdemeanor charge of dereliction of duty for the five who privately exchanged texts and emails in 2018 and then used taxpayer money to hire outside attorneys to represent themselves. The settlement for the lawsuit cost the city \$176,000 in total: \$90,000 of which went to the law firm that launched the civil suit on behalf of an anti-tax activist. Another \$10,000 paid a statutory forfeiture because Young said he purposely deleted his text messages. The city paid \$75,000 in legal fees from outside lawyers to represent the city and the five council members in the suit, leaving the Open Meetings Act violation fine at \$1,000.

- As you all know, last year the Auditor of State's office investigated allegations that five council members from the City of Cincinnati conspired to violate Ohio's open meetings law. We referred our findings to the Hamilton County Prosecutor for criminal prosecution. Being respectful of the ongoing criminal process, we will soon be ready to announce additional findings regarding the expenditure of public funds because of the five council member's improper acts – so, stay tuned.
- The investigation is ongoing but we believe some findings are possibly coming soon from our office.

Ken Johnson

Cleveland city councilman Kenneth Johnson was convicted Friday of corruption and tax charges in a verdict that ended his 40-year career at City Hall. A federal jury found Johnson guilty of 15 counts of corruption and tax charges, deliberating for four hours before announcing its verdict. Johnson faces up to 10 years in prison and is the fifth council member since 2000 convicted of corruption-related offenses committed while in office.

- *Our office is not involved in this investigation. The claims in question are from before my time as auditor.*

Columbus Zoo

There are a number of ongoing reviews and investigations involving the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium following a March report by The Dispatch that uncovered improper use of zoo resources by former CEO and President Tom Stalf and former Chief Financial Officer Greg Bell.

- As was revealed by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Board, our office is involved in an ongoing investigation related to allegations of misuse of funds, assets and property by zoo executives. The investigation is ongoing and we are not yet in a position today to talk about our next steps or findings at this time.

HB6/ First energy money

The HB6 investigation into Ohio's largest corruption scheme is all about money and power. The owner of two nuclear power plants in northern Ohio wanted a \$1 billion bailout to keep its plants running. A Republican lawmaker hoping to make a comeback wanted help returning to power. In July 2020, Householder and four allies were arrested on racketeering charges and now face up to 20 years in prison for their alleged crimes. In the months since, Akron-based FirstEnergy has fired executives, a state utility regulator has resigned following a FBI search of his home and federal investigators have continued asking questions.

FirstEnergy, an Akron-based utility giant, gave \$61 million in bribes to Ohio lobbyists and politicians, including former GOP House Speaker Larry Householder, to pass House Bill 6, the \$1.3 billion taxpayer-funded bailout of two nuclear power plants owned by FirstEnergy. Mike DeWine has given back money received by First Energy.

- Not involved with HB 6 – didn't vote on it, didn't have any role
- What about the early legislation dealing with preserving Ohio's nuclear power plants and keeping those jobs here in Ohio? Was KF involved?
- How do we respond to questions about the campaign contributions for First Energy and its executives and employees.

Redistricting

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

- ***“Compact districts that allows Ohioans to have representation by people who share their values”***

- The Commission draft the legislative districts and if the legislature can't come to a decision with the first draft of the congressional lines, it comes to the Commission.
- Criteria focus on keeping communities together and increasing transparency.
- The state of Ohio and the U.S. Census Bureau asked a judge on Tuesday to place on hold their court fight over when data used for redrawing congressional and legislative districts will be released. (AP NEWS)
 - As part of a settlement agreement, the Census Bureau promised to release the redistricting data no later than Aug. 16 — a date it had previously picked for releasing the numbers in an older format. The bureau also agreed to provide Ohio with twice-monthly updates on its progress toward meeting that deadline.

Unemployment Compensation System – Fraud/Bad Customer Service

The AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

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- \$400 million in fraud and another \$1.7 million in over payments – what constitutes as fraud this is approaching \$2 billion dollars in abuse of our system.
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~~Draft~~

From: Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 01 Sep 2021 16:35:45 -0400

Article 11 Section 8 of Ohio's Constitution provides for the potential of a map not being determined by Sept. 1. This impasse procedure extends the process to September 15 for the Commission to present a map, hold hearings and vote. The delayed delivery of the census data essentially predetermined that this impasse procedure would be necessary.



Fw: [External]Rules v6

From: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Jessica L. Friedhoff <jlfriedhoff@ohioauditor.gov>, Emily Redman <eeredman@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 13:46:48 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules - Version 6.docx (35.33 kB)

Please see the updates to the rules as conveyed from the House staff.

From: Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:50 PM
To: 'mathew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <mathew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; 'Grodhaus, Michael' <mgrodhaus@OhioSOS.Gov>
Subject: [External]Rules v6

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Gentlemen,

Attached please find the most recent draft of the proposed commission rules. Please let me know if you have any suggested edits or opinions on this version.

Thanks,

Paul

Paul V Disantis
Chief Legal Counsel
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614.466.7959

Fwd: [External]Proposed Rules for 8/31/2021 Meeting

From: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Jessica L. Friedhoff <jlfriedhoff@ohioauditor.gov>, Emily Redman <eredman@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Mon, 30 Aug 2021 16:17:04 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules (Proposed).pdf (163.54 kB)

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From: Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov <Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 4:05:44 PM
To: 'Madrid, Merle' <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov <Samantha.Herd@ohiohouse.gov>; Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov <Mike.Rowe@ohiosenate.gov>; Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov <Scott.Stockman@ohiosenate.gov>; Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov <Christine.Morrison@ohiohouse.gov>; john.barron@ohiosenate.gov <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>; Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>; 'Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov' <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>; Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov <Andy.DiPalma@ohiohouse.gov>; 'Grodhaus, Michael' <mgrodhaus@OhioSOS.Gov>; 'Oliveti, Chris' <colliveti@OhioSOS.Gov>; traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov <traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov>; George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov <George.Boas@ohiosenate.gov>; traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov <traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov>; 'stspaulding@ohioauditor.gov' <stspaulding@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: [External]Proposed Rules for 8/31/2021 Meeting

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Dear Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Please see attached the proposed Rules for the Ohio Redistricting Commission to be offered tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street Columbus,
14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
Mobile: 614.352.5819
Heather.Blessing@ohiohouse.gov

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Fwd: [External]Proposed Rules for Thursday

From: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Sloan T. Spalding <stspalding@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 10:38:16 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules - Draft.docx (32.16 kB)

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From: Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:31:58 PM
To: Keith L. Faber <KLFaber@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Jessica L. Friedhoff <JLFriedhoff@ohioauditor.gov>
Subject: Fw: [External]Proposed Rules for Thursday

From: Strigari, Frank <Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:47 AM
To: Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov <Matthew.Donahue@governor.ohio.gov>; Madrid, Merle <mmadrid@OhioSOS.Gov>; Alex S. Bilchak <ASBilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov <Paul.Disantis@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: [External]Proposed Rules for Thursday

***** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.**

All,

As a follow up from last week, attached are the draft rules that we are hoping to adopt on Thursday at the Lima meeting. We are sending them to you now so that your offices have time to review them before Thursday.

As I mentioned, the House and Senate democratic caucuses have been advocating for adopting the Commission's rules on Thursday. We believe the attached rules should enable us to do that, on a bipartisan basis.

Please note, however, there appears to be 1 issue in the attached draft that is not completely resolved yet; specifically, the 2nd paragraph in Rule 10. Staff for the senate democratic caucus has requested that the rule require 3 public hearings to be held **prior to September 1**. As I have discussed again with them, because of the 4+ month delay in receiving the census data, having a map introduced, considered at 3 public hearings and voted on by September 1 is not realistically possible.

Consequently, we are proposing instead that there be 3 public hearings (the Constitution only requires 1) **prior to adoption on September 15**. Paul and I believe that this idea is much more realistic and doable. And from what Paul has told me, staff for the House democratic caucus agree. Thus, if the Senate democratic caucus can agree to this, the Rules should be ready to go on Thursday.

In the meantime, we wanted your offices to see the latest draft as soon as possible.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the attached rules.

Frank

FRANK M. STRIGARI
Chief Legal Counsel
Ohio Senate
Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 995-4868
Frank.Strigari@ohiosenate.gov

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copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by telephone. Thank you.

September talking points

From: Allie J. Dumski <ajdumski@ohioauditor.gov>
To: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, Matthew R. Eiselstein <mreiselstein@ohioauditor.gov>, Robert P. Abel <rpabel@ohioauditor.gov>, James M. Coyne <jmcoyne@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Wed, 01 Sep 2021 12:07:37 -0400
Attachments: september talking points.docx (50.03 kB)

DRAFT September talking points are attached. Please let me know if I missed anything. Otherwise, I will send these out tomorrow.



September 2021 Talking Points

- Updates are underlined.

Stats:

- Performance Audit savings: \$119 million
- Issued over \$4.8 million in findings for recovery in the last year
- Assisted in 26 convictions in the last year
- 59% of local governments audited for public records compliance are meeting the requirements set by Sunshine Laws
- More than 600 tips of suspected fraud
- Expanded eligibility for Basic Audit and AUPs resulting in 80% and 49% in savings for clients

Office Notes:

- AOS annual report is posted on the website.
- Certificate of Transition goes into effect with the next swearing in of officers.
- Unemployment performance audit (customer service) and public interest audit (fraud) expected this month.
- COVID-19 Resource Page has been revamped.

Redistricting

The new Ohio Redistricting Commission is comprised of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and two representatives (one D, one R) each from the Senate and the House. Four votes, including at least two from the minority party, would be needed to approve a redistricting map that would be valid for the full 10 years until the next census.

- The Commission draft the legislative districts and if the legislature can't come to a decision with the first draft of the congressional lines, it comes to the Commission.
- Criteria focus on keeping communities together and increasing transparency.
- Listening to the public input is a critical component to this process.
- Attended 8/10 public hearings and promoted live streams/redistricting website
- "This is an important time for our state and our bipartisan commission understands that Ohioans want to participate in the process that will eventually help determine who represents their interests in both Columbus and Washington D.C."
- "This webpage will ensure that Ohioans have the opportunity to share their ideas, information and concerns for consideration throughout the redistricting process."
- "I'm going to work hard to get 10-year maps, but that comes down to what the two Democrats want and if they're willing to compromise," he said.
- Auditor Faber and AOS staff have not met with any Redistricting Commission members or staff in regard to the drawing of maps, outside of the public hearings and administrative meetings related to scheduling and meeting rules.
- Watch meetings, submit feedback, and get information at [www. Redistricting.Ohio.Gov](http://www.Redistricting.Ohio.Gov)

Senate Bill 19

Property tax rollback exemption study program – Merrin inserted language to Schaffer's bill to set up a system for county auditors to work with the Tax Commissioner to identify properties that might be wrongly receiving an exemption and report on it.

- This is not language that we drafted or advocated for – our audits have identified errors in the property tax exemption programs that we believe is more a state concern than a county concern and that county auditors only have so much ability to check properties within their own county, not in the other 87 counties
- We would recommend the legislature require and give resources to the Tax Department to establish a central database as a tool for county auditors to be able to identify cross-county duplicates

Summary of As Enacted budget items impacting AOS

The State Budget passed the state legislature and is being reviewed by the Governor. The following items were included:

- The General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation line items included Audit Management and Services, Performance Audits, and Local Government Audit Support. The GRF appropriation line items included the Local Government Audit Support Fund.
- Appointed municipal fiscal officer continuing education requirements must match those for elected municipal fiscal officers.
 - This was vetoed by the Governor. Our statement is: “We believe that creating a faster and cheaper mediation process in the court of claims would allow for greater access for Ohioans. A similar program has proven to be successful for public records disputes, and we will continue to advocate for greater transparency in government.”
- Allows regional COGs set up to provide health care benefits with an ESC as fiscal agent to acquire, establish, manage, or operate a separate business entity and use its unencumbered reserve funds to do so.
- Force account limits have been increased for local governments to take on bridge, road, and highway projects.

College Credit Plus

Recent Interviews:

- Morning Journal - [Ohio Auditor holds roundtable discussion at LCCC](#)
- Chronicle Telegram - [State auditor touts College Credit Plus](#)
- The Daily Record - [School leaders discuss what's working \(and what's not\) in Ohio's College Credit Plus program](#)

College Credit Plus is an opportunity for Ohio's high school students to earn college credit for free. Auditor Faber is currently meeting with students, teachers, professors, administrators, and parents to hear their experiences with the program

- We are interested to see how the program is working across the state.

- Participation rates
- Benefits to the state
- We will be conducting a performance audit of the program and it is currently being scoped.
- Auditor Faber has hosted roundtable discussions with college and high school officials in Lorain, Orrville, and Lebanon.

Unemployment Compensation System – Fraud/Bad Customer Service

Recent Interviews:

- NBC4- [The Spectrum with Colleen Marshall](#)
- Dayton 24/7 - [Ohio Auditor calls unemployment system 'dysfunctional,' audits underway](#)
- Cleveland 19 News- [Widespread fraud information within unemployment system not provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, state auditor says](#)
- NBC4 - [Ohio auditor: Fraud investigation unveils 'levels of failure' in unemployment system](#)

The AOS Office is working on multiple reviews of the state's unemployment system in regard to fraud and customer service experience. While these are ongoing, the Auditor has been hosting discussions with Ohioans who have used the system to hear their experiences. Unemployment fraud has been a nationwide problem

- Our office has received a high volume of unemployment fraud/identify theft claims, including a fraudulent claim filed in Auditor Faber's name.
- It came to our attention that ODJFS was continuing to bill employers, despite obviously fraudulent claims. Upon inquiry, ODJFS had advised employers that they must pay these bills. AOS did not agree with that advice.
- As a result, AOS issued an advisory on February 26, 2021 to local government employers informing them that our office will not issue Findings for Recovery or make audit findings where a local government elects to pay an invoice from ODJFS for potentially fraudulent claims.
- Completed a statewide tour listening to Ohioans dealing with delayed payments, long customer service wait times, and their identities being stolen for fraudulent unemployment claims.
- The Legislature required us to do a study of the JFS unemployment compensation system and its processes. From this study we must issue a report that explicitly covers 18 areas of interest. In that report we will also make any recommendations that we think will improve the system. We have worked with JFS before and I am confident that they will be a good partner in this audit. At the end of the day, we all have the same goal. We need this to work better.
- The Office is also doing an audit of the rampant fraud. The State Single Audit issued a qualified opinion regarding ODJFS meaning that auditors did not have confidence in the financial statements provided. During the *State Audit*, ODJFS did not share the vast occurrences of fraud that had taken place.
- The performance audit reviewing customer service is expected this fall after data collection difficulties working with peer states and Ohio's data system.

Certificate of Transition

At the end of April, AOS issued Bulletin 2021-005 regarding the Certificate of Transition by Outgoing Fiscal Officers. The bulletin, which is available on our website, outlines the requirements as adopted in Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.171 for completing the Certificate and provides guidance and an example.

The Certificate process was established to aid in the transition of office and to help ensure the incoming officer has to tools they need to succeed.

- The bulletin as well as our website includes the Certificate of Transition template.
- As a best practice, **incoming** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible upon taking office and consistently update it for as long as they hold the position.
- All **current** officials should prepare their Certificate of Transition as soon as possible and consistently update it for as long as you hold the position.

CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Funding

The [COVID Resource Page](#) on our website remains a helpful place for local governments to get up to date information on guidance and funding requirements. As the American Rescue Plan money hits local governments, we remain available to answer questions and offer assistance.

- The Cares Act providing much needed assistance, but the guidelines surrounding the spending of these dollars is confusing and occasionally even contradictory.
- On our website is the CARES Act/COVID-19 resources webpage for local government clients where we track changes in the rules and guidelines on CARES Act funds and provides updates as they become available.
- We have shared guidance on how to use CARES funding as housing assistance and to help small businesses.
- We are still waiting on more information regarding the American Rescue Plan funding that many local governments will receive and will continue our communication and flexibility in our audits to help everyone navigate this changing environment.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was effective March 11, 2021. As part of this Act, the U.S. Treasury will distribute Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds directly to counties and metropolitan cities. Non-metropolitan municipalities (<50,000 population) are classified as non-entitlement units and should expect to receive this funding through the State of Ohio.

- The distribution methodology to counties and metropolitan cities is as follows:
 - Counties are allocated based on each county's population share of the total population of all counties, using the latest available population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Treasury makes use of the 2019 Census for the purposes of this allocation.
 - Each metropolitan city (> 50,000 population) shall receive an amount determined consistent with the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) formula.
- There are broad definitions of allowable uses. In summary, Treasury is providing the State and Local Recovery Fund relief to:
 - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
 - Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
 - Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
 - Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the in equal impact of the pandemic

General Office Reminders:

- LGS
 - LGS can be trusted to provide high-quality, timely assistance addressing financial, accounting or budgetary concerns.
 - LGS is offering four free hours of expertise in training or providing assistance to local government officials with current issues. We are using this as an opportunity to introduce ourselves to those not familiar with LGS by demonstrating our vast, experienced and knowledgeable staff. For those who are currently or have been an LGS client, this could be an opportunity to see the new services we provide.
 - Clients could use part of the four free hours to discuss accounting issues arising from the American Rescue Plan, on reconstruction or reconciliation needs or preparing a multiple-year financial forecast detailing both your operational and capital needs.

- *SIU*
 - The mission of SIU is to promote transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, to expose fraud and corruption where it exists, and to assist law enforcement and prosecutors in the pursuit of justice.
 - Ways to submit a tip: 1-866-Fraud-OH, fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov, mobile app, mail
 - Once a tip is submitted, SIU evaluates the tip to direct it to the appropriate agency and if it is within AOS authority a special audit or investigation will begin.

- *StarS*
 - We recently released a [report](#) with the first year results of the StarS program. All results are posted [online](#).
 - The StarS program has allowed us to recognize local governments that go above and beyond when it comes to open government and bring accountability to those that could be doing better.
 - Since launch of the program, 4,181 entities have been audited. More than 59% achieved a one star rating, meeting compliance with Ohio's public records laws. Almost 50% of them implemented best practices to earn additional stars.

- Cyber Security
 - Especially now that many of us are working from home and on potentially less secure connections - Cybersecurity is an area we are looking to ramp up as it becomes a growing concern among our local governments as it is in our business community.
 - We plan to increase our training and prevention tactics for our clients
 - For Fiscal Officers: The Auditor of State's Office provides a **free** of charge cyber security course covering many important aspects to keep you safe and informed. This course provided by the security and awareness firm KnowBe4 can be accessed through any of our website's webpages that require a login (UANLink, The Hinkle System, The Fiscal Integrity Act Portal). Once logged in you will see a link to the training and the password. While the course is titled Home Internet Security, the information covers many topics relevant to home and work. It likely will take an hour or more to complete the training, but is broken into modules that can be taken over time.

[External]Ohio Redistricting Commission - notice to adopt commission rules tomorrow

From: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
To: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, "Barron, John" <john.barron@ohiosenate.gov>, "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Olivet, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 09:09:37 -0400
Attachments: Ohio Redistricting Commission Notice for Vote on Commission Rules.pdf (637.26 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Hello all,
On behalf of Co-chair Sykes and Co-chair Cupp, please see the attached memo to members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, which provides notice that the commission intends to vote to adopt rules as required by subsection (1)(B)(2)(a)(i) of Article XI of the Ohio Constitution at the meeting in Lima tomorrow Thursday, August 26.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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[External]Ohio Redistricting Commission Draft Rules

From: "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>
To: "Strigari, Frank" <frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov>, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, sarah.cherry@ohiohouse.gov
Cc: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 17:25:46 -0400
Attachments: 2021-08-25 Redistricting Commission Draft Rules SOS Comments.docx (40.59 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

As Notice has been sent that the proposed Rules for the Commission may be discussed and voted on at tomorrow morning's hearing in Lima, Secretary LaRose directed me to provide you with his proposed edits to the draft Rules.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about his suggested edits.



D. Michael Grodhaus | Chief Legal Counsel
Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

O: 614.728.9504
OhioSoS.gov

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[External] Proposed Rules for 8/31/2021 Meeting

From: heather.blessing@ohiohouse.gov
To: "Madrid, Merle" <mmadrid@ohiosos.gov>, samantha.herd@ohiohouse.gov, mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov, scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov, christine.morrison@ohiohouse.gov, john.barron@ohiosenate.gov, frank.strigari@ohiosenate.gov, matthew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, andy.dipalma@ohiohouse.gov, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>, "Oliveti, Chris" <coliveti@ohiosos.gov>, traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov, george.boas@ohiosenate.gov, traevon.leak@ohiosenate.gov, stspaulding@ohioauditor.gov
Date: Mon, 30 Aug 2021 16:05:44 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules (Proposed).pdf (163.54 kB)

***** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.**

Dear Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

Please see attached the proposed Rules for the Ohio Redistricting Commission to be offered tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Heather Blessing

Heather N. Blessing, Esq.
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of the Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
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14th Floor, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.466.9194
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[External]Redistricting software for Commission non-legislative members

From: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
To: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Date: Tue, 31 Aug 2021 10:05:28 -0400
Attachments: Software and training for commissioners-offices proposal 8-27-2021.pdf (105.87 kB)

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ATTN: Alex Bilchak, Deputy Chief of Staff
Redistricting Commission contact for Auditor Keith Faber

RE: Redistricting software for Commission non-legislative members

Dear Mr. Bilchak,

I write to you on behalf of Co-chair Sykes regarding the Ohio Redistricting Commission. He tells me that Auditor Faber asked whether the commission is able to provide software for redistricting (i.e., drawing and/or evaluating maps) as well as training for the software. We have obtained a quote from Caliper Corporation which for \$7,500 would provide one license for "Maptitude for Redistricting with HERE and TIGER Data" (see attached). Each of the three non-legislative members (Governor, Auditor and Secretary of State) would be provided one license. Additionally as part of acquiring the software license, Caliper would provide a one-day training for 2 staff per office. The cost of the training would be \$4,000 total. Normally this training is spread over 3 days, but in the interest of time, the training would be conducted on a condensed, accelerated basis.

Please let me know if the above is what the Auditor contemplated. If so, Co-chair Sykes is willing to discuss the above proposal with Co-chair Cupp.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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Caliper Corporation

1172 Beacon Street, Ste. 300
Newton, MA 02461
Tel: 617-527-4700 Fax: 617-527-5113
www.caliper.com
sales@caliper.com

Pro-Forma Invoice

Table with 2 columns: Date, Pro-Forma#. Row 1: 8/27/2021, 20066

Table with header 'Bill to:' and address: Ohio Senate, Randall Routt, 2 South High Street, Statehouse Room 304, Columbus OH 43215

Table with header 'Ship To:' and address: Ohio Senate, Randall Routt, Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square, Room 304, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Main table with 5 columns: Contact E-mail, FB Case, # Days Valid, Terms, Description, Region, Quantity, Cost, Total. Includes rows for Maptitude for Redistricting with HERE & TIGER Data License and Training - Maptitude for Redistricting.

- NOTES:
1) Please reference invoice number with payment
2) Buyer is responsible for all taxes, duties, VAT, fees, and retentions
3) Caliper's Federal Tax ID Number is 04-2806868
4) Use of the Software is subject to the terms & conditions of the License Agreement

Summary table with 2 columns: Label, Amount. Rows: Subtotal \$26,500.00, Sales Tax (0.0%) \$0.00, Total \$26,500.00

WIRE TRANSFER INSTRUCTIONS

Bank of America, 100 West 33rd St
New York, NY 10001, USA
Swift Code: BOFAUS3N
ABA Code: 026009593
Recipient Name: Caliper Corporation
Account Type: Business Economy Checking
Account #:004621123760

ACH TRANSFER INSTRUCTIONS

Bank of America, 100 Federal Street
Boston, MA, 02110, USA
Swift Code: BOFAUS3N
ABA Code: 011000138
Recipient Name: Caliper Corporation
Account Name: Business Economy Checking
Account #:004621123760

[External]Rules v6

From: paul.disantis@ohiohouse.gov
To: mathew.donahue@governor.ohio.gov, Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>, "Grodhaus, Michael" <mgrodhaus@ohiosos.gov>
Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 12:50:14 -0400
Attachments: 2021 Redistricting Commission Rules - Version 6.docx (35.33 kB)

*** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.

Gentlemen,

Attached please find the most recent draft of the proposed commission rules. Please let me know if you have any suggested edits or opinions on this version.

Thanks,

Paul

Paul V Disantis
Chief Legal Counsel
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614.466.7959

[External]Senate Democratic plan information

From: "Boas, George" <george.boas@ohiosenate.gov>
To: Alex S. Bilchak <asbilchak@ohioauditor.gov>
Cc: "Rowe, Mike" <mike.rowe@ohiosenate.gov>, "Routt, Randall" <randall.routt@ohiosenate.gov>, "Stockman, Scott" <scott.stockman@ohiosenate.gov>, "Rothey, Kristin" <kristin.rothey@ohiosenate.gov>
Date: Thu, 02 Sep 2021 12:46:56 -0400
Attachments: OSDC House Voting District by District and by County.pdf (769.32 kB); OSDC Senate Voting District by District and by County.pdf (698.97 kB); Senate Plan Population & Election Statistics .pdf (1.31 MB)

***** Auditor of State Security Notice *** This e-mail is from an external source. Think before you click links or open attachments.**

Hello Alex,

Thank you for the opportunity to present our plan to Auditor Faber tomorrow at 11 am in our caucus offices, Room 304 Statehouse.

Please find attached our precinct level Ohio House and Senate district data. I've also attached our plan population & election statistics.

Lastly, here is the hyperlink for our plan on Dave's Redistricting:


<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::db79fa50-da2b-4fc6-94bd-272210363e01>

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks.

George

George Boas
Deputy Chief of Staff
Senate Democratic Caucus
Ohio Senate - Columbus, Ohio 43215
T: 614-466-1049 / F: 614-644-1981

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Freda J. Levenson, hereby certify that on October 22, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the following documents to be served by email upon the counsel listed below:

- 1. Affidavit of Collin J. Marozzi**
- 2. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 1 of 6 (pages 1 - 289)**
- 3. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 2 of 6 (pages 290 - 557)**
- 4. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 3 of 6 (pages 558 - 834)**
- 5. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 4 of 6 (pages 835 - 998)**
- 6. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 5 of 6 (pages 999 - 1226)**
- 7. Public Records Requests, Appendix of Exhibits, Volume 6 of 6 (pages 1227 - 1462)**

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Counsel for Respondent Ohio Redistricting Commission

/s/ Freda J. Levenson