



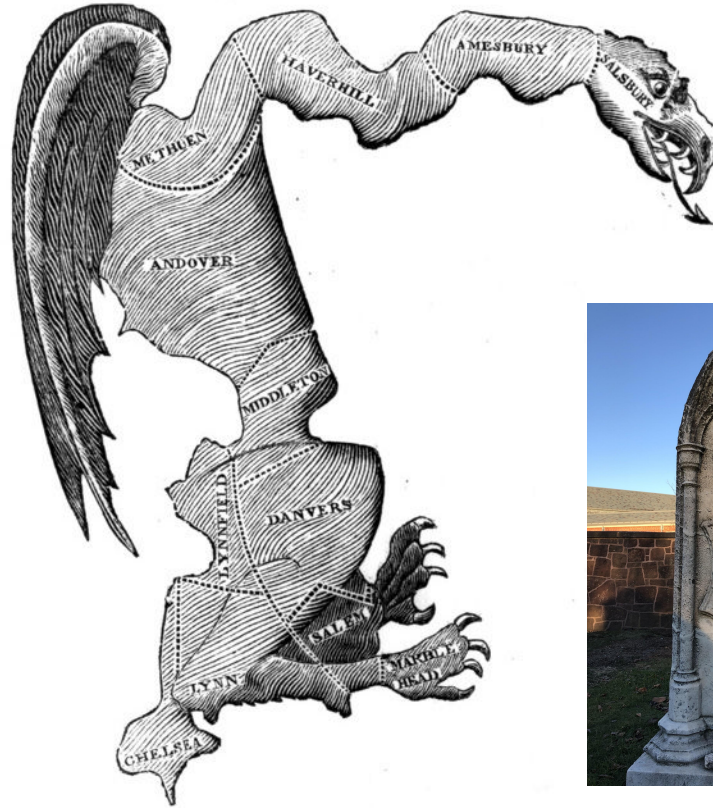
Why our districts are so bad  
and the fight for fair maps

# Gerrymandering is as old as congressional districts!

## THE GERRY-MANDER.

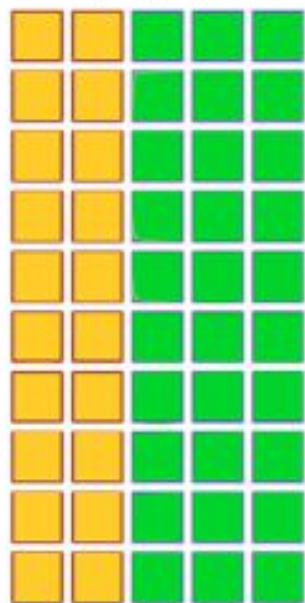
A new species of *Monster*, which appeared  
in *Essex South District* in Jan. 1812.

"O generation of Vipers! who hath warned you of the wrath to come?"



It gets worse as computers get more powerful and politics more ruthless.

50  
people



**40% yellow  
60% green**

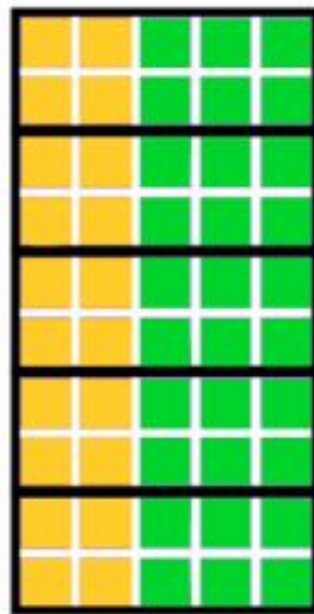
1. Perfect  
representation



**2 yellow districts,  
3 green districts**

**GREEN WINS**

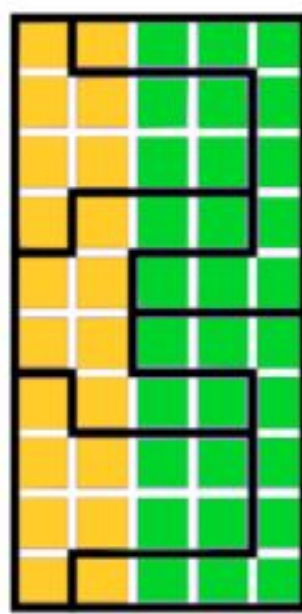
2. Compact,  
but unfair



**5 green districts,  
0 yellow districts**

**GREEN WINS**

3. Neither compact  
nor fair



**2 green districts,  
3 yellow districts**

**YELLOW WINS**





## Ohio Redistricting Reform History

**1967**

Ohio Constitutional amendment adopted authorizing the Apportionment Board to draw boundaries for Ohio House and Senate districts. The amendment did not address congressional districts and they continued to be drawn by the Ohio General Assembly.

**1981**

The Democrats performed the second partisan gerrymander. The League of Women Voters of Ohio supported an Ohio constitutional amendment that provided for competition between redistricting plans and required approval of the plan that provided for the most compact districts. The Ohio Republican Party supported the amendment; the Democrats opposed it. The amendment failed, getting only 42% of the vote.

**1999**

The League of Women Voters of Ohio attempted, but failed, to place a redistricting reform amendment on the ballot. The proposal used a mathematical formula to assure compact districts.

**2005**

Reform Ohio Now (RON) placed a redistricting initiative on the ballot, along with three other election reform initiatives. Under the redistricting initiative, plans could be submitted by the public and the plan that created the most competitive districts would be chosen. Neither state party supported the initiative. The proposal received 30% of the vote.

**2009-2010**

The Republican-controlled Senate and Democrat-controlled House each passed a redistricting initiative, the Senate version mirroring HJR 13 and the House version establishing a public competition. The two resolutions could not be reconciled, and no proposal passed both chambers.

**2012**

Representatives of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Common Cause Ohio and others filed a petition to place redistricting reform on the ballot. Under the proposal an independent commission would ensure districts were compact, competitive and reflective of the political values of voters. The initiative failed, getting 37% of the vote.

**2014**

The Constitutional Modernization Commission couldn't reach consensus. During the lame duck session, Rep. Vern Sykes (D) and Rep. Matt Huffman (R) negotiated a compromise plan for redistricting the General Assembly that overwhelmingly passed both the Ohio House and Senate. It required bipartisan support to adopt a full 10 year district plan, tightened requirements for keeping political subdivisions together, stated districts could not be drawn for partisan gain, and required more transparency and public input.

**2017**

The Fair Districts campaign launched a petition initiative to apply the rules from Issue 1 in 2015 -- a bipartisan commission protecting communities and limiting partisan gerrymandering -- to congressional redistricting, attempting to place it on the November 2018 ballot. The legislature created a bipartisan working group to study congressional redistricting.

**1971**

The Democrats controlled the Apportionment Board and performed the first partisan gerrymander under the new amendment.

**1991**

The Republicans controlled the Apportionment Board and performed the third partisan gerrymander under the 1967 amendment.

**2001**

The Republicans performed the fourth partisan gerrymander under the 1967 amendment.

**2006**

A Republican legislator introduced a redistricting reform initiative, HJR 13. It emphasized compactness of districts and keeping communities together. The resolution narrowly failed to receive the required 60% vote from both the House and Senate to be placed on the ballot.

**2011**

The Republicans performed the fifth partisan gerrymander. Concurrently, the Ohio Campaign for Accountable Redistricting led by the League of Women Voters of Ohio and Ohio Citizen Action, held a competition in which citizens could draw maps. Those maps were more compact, more competitive, fairer to both political parties and respected county and municipal boundaries. All were better than the ones adopted. OCAR also issued a "Transparency Report" showing that maps were drawn in secret to the specifications of politicians.

**2013**

Although Joint Resolutions were introduced in the legislature, the focus of redistricting reform turned to the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission.

**2015**

The legislature's plan was Issue 1 on the November ballot and passed by 71.5%. The League, Common Cause and others began work on adding congressional redistricting to the reform agenda.

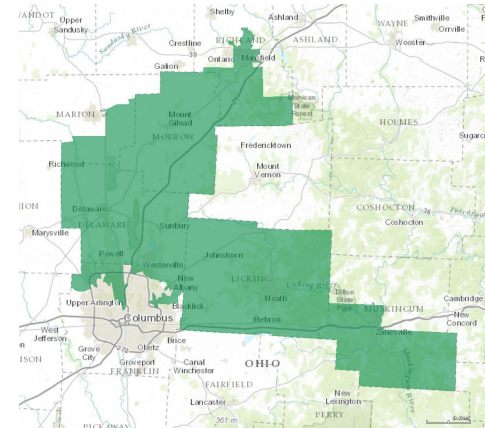
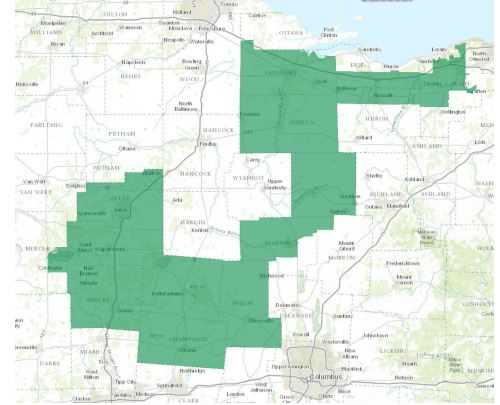
**2018**

Grassroots work of petition circulators precipitated negotiations between legislators and the Fair Districts campaign, leading to the passage of SJR 5, placing congressional redistricting reform on the May ballot as Issue 1. It would create a 3-step process to ensure bipartisan support for a 10-year plan or allow a temporary partisan plan that must comply with strict anti-gerrymandering rules.

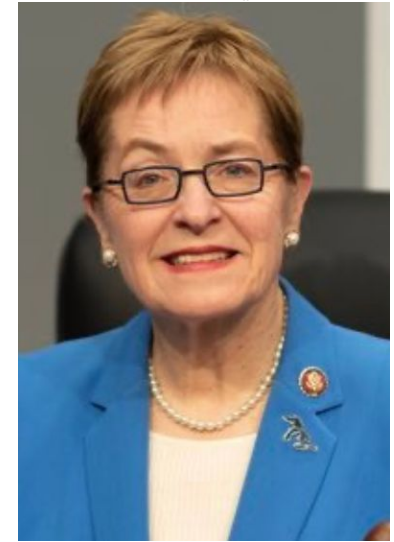
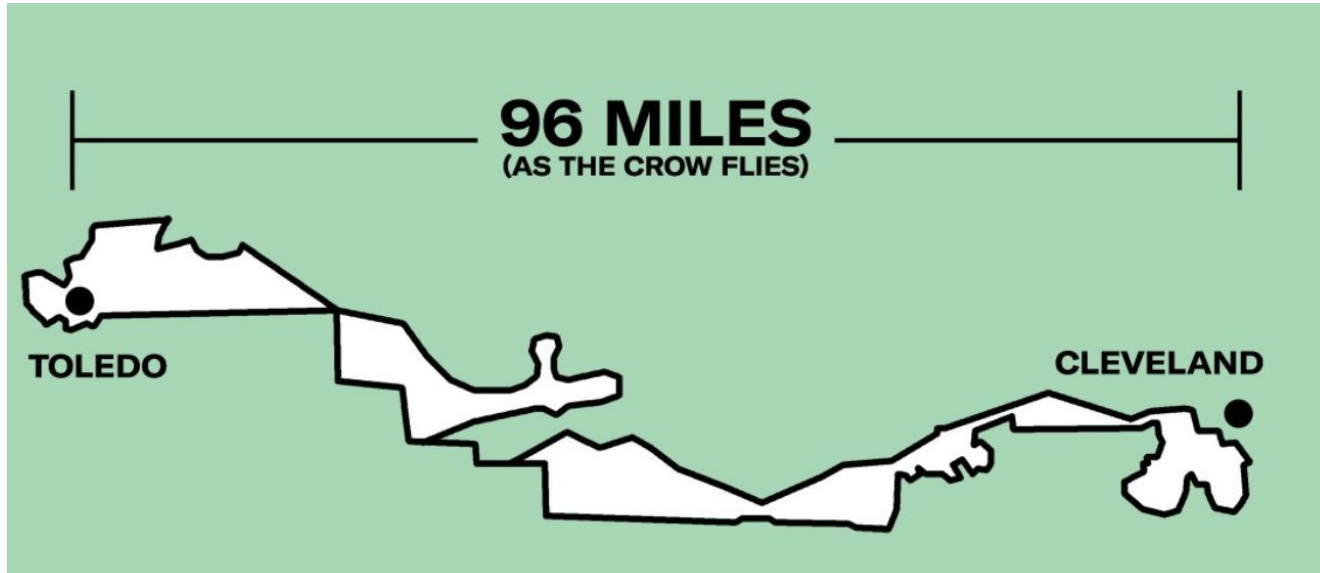
\*From 1978 through 2001, there was a proposed redistricting reform constitutional amendment introduced in each General Assembly Session — none passed.

# Maps Drawn in “The Bunker” in 2011

- The goal was set from the start, by national GOP leaders: 12/4 districts would be “locked down” for the GOP
- Secret process -- carried out in “the bunker” -- Room 601 at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbus
- Gerrymandered districts are not competitive; they lead to hyper-partisanship, elected officials who are unresponsive to constituents needs.
- Number of Congressional districts that have changed hands (from one party to another) over the ten year life of the map: ZERO



# Snake on the Lake

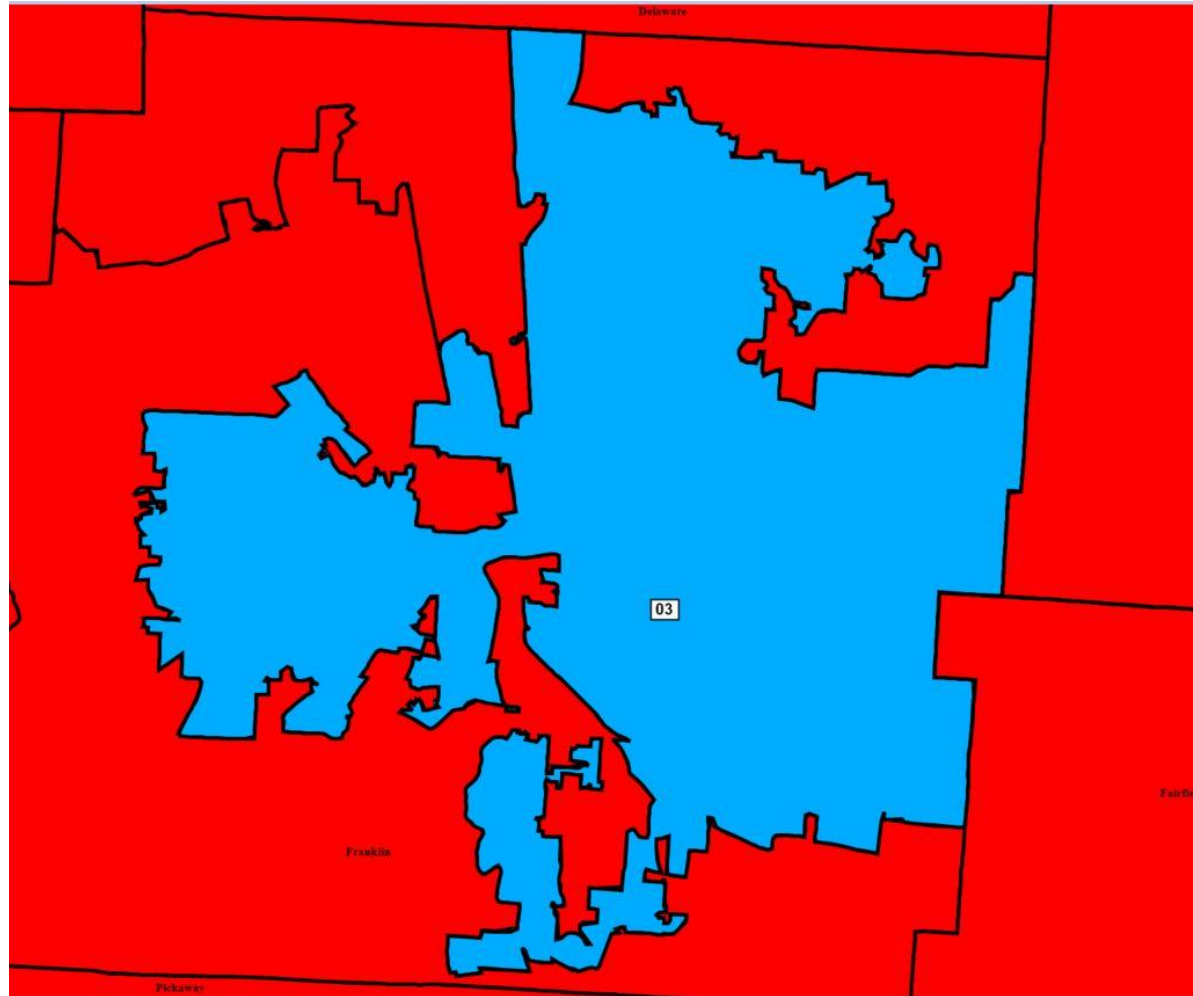


“The district was hacked apart...they cracked every single county that I had ever represented...they were hacking towns apart...Parma was cracked. Cleveland was cracked, my home community was cracked...

“I couldn't believe that a state that is dedicated to home rule and the importance of community, because it's hard to build community, that it was just thrown to the wind.”

-Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

Even “compact”  
districts are  
ridiculous!





## Ohio Legislative Redistricting Reform

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## US Congressional Redistricting Reform

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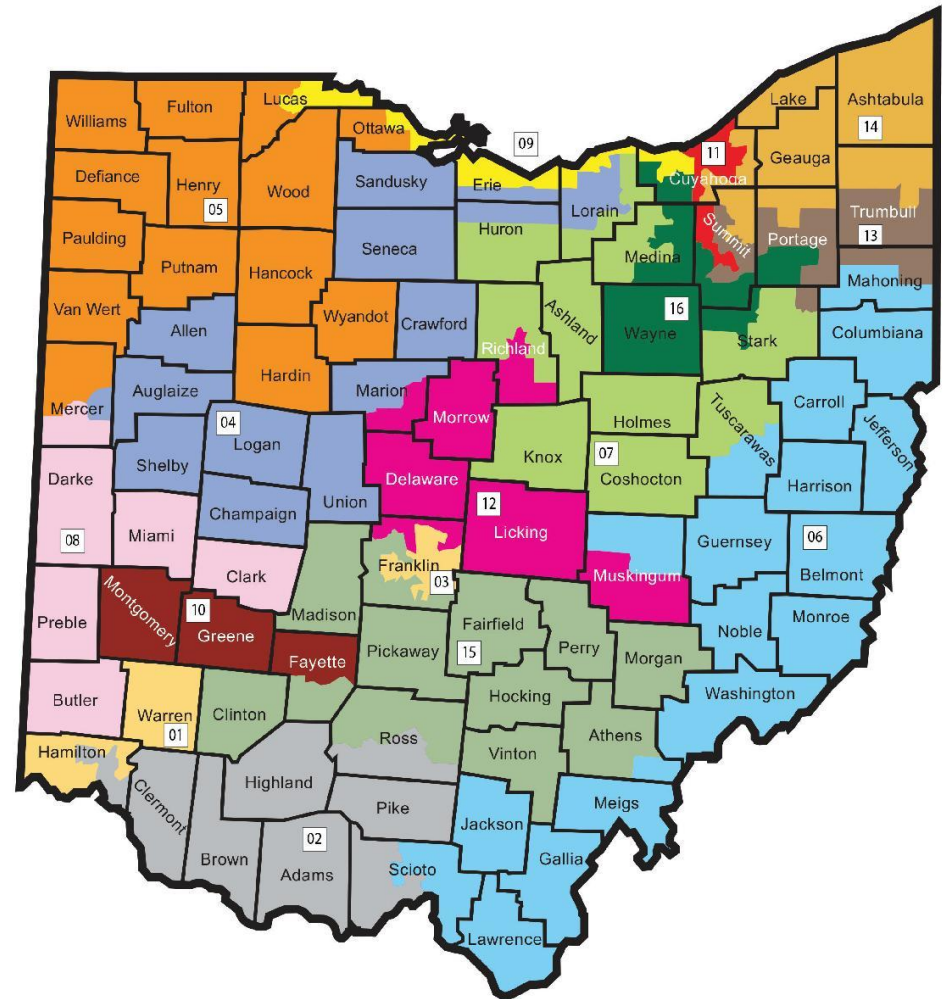
- **Fair Districts = Fair Elections coalition:** LWVO, CCO, OEC, COHHIO, NAACP, Ohio Voice, state and local groups including Indivisibles, church groups, book clubs, and craftavists
- We collected nearly 247,270 **validated** signatures
- More than 3,714 volunteers with at least 2 signatures.
- Issue 1 of May 2018 passed by 75% of the vote and won in 88/88 counties!
- In 68 of Ohio's 88 counties, there was very strong bipartisan support.
- In heavily Republican-leaning areas, the majority of YES votes came from Republicans.



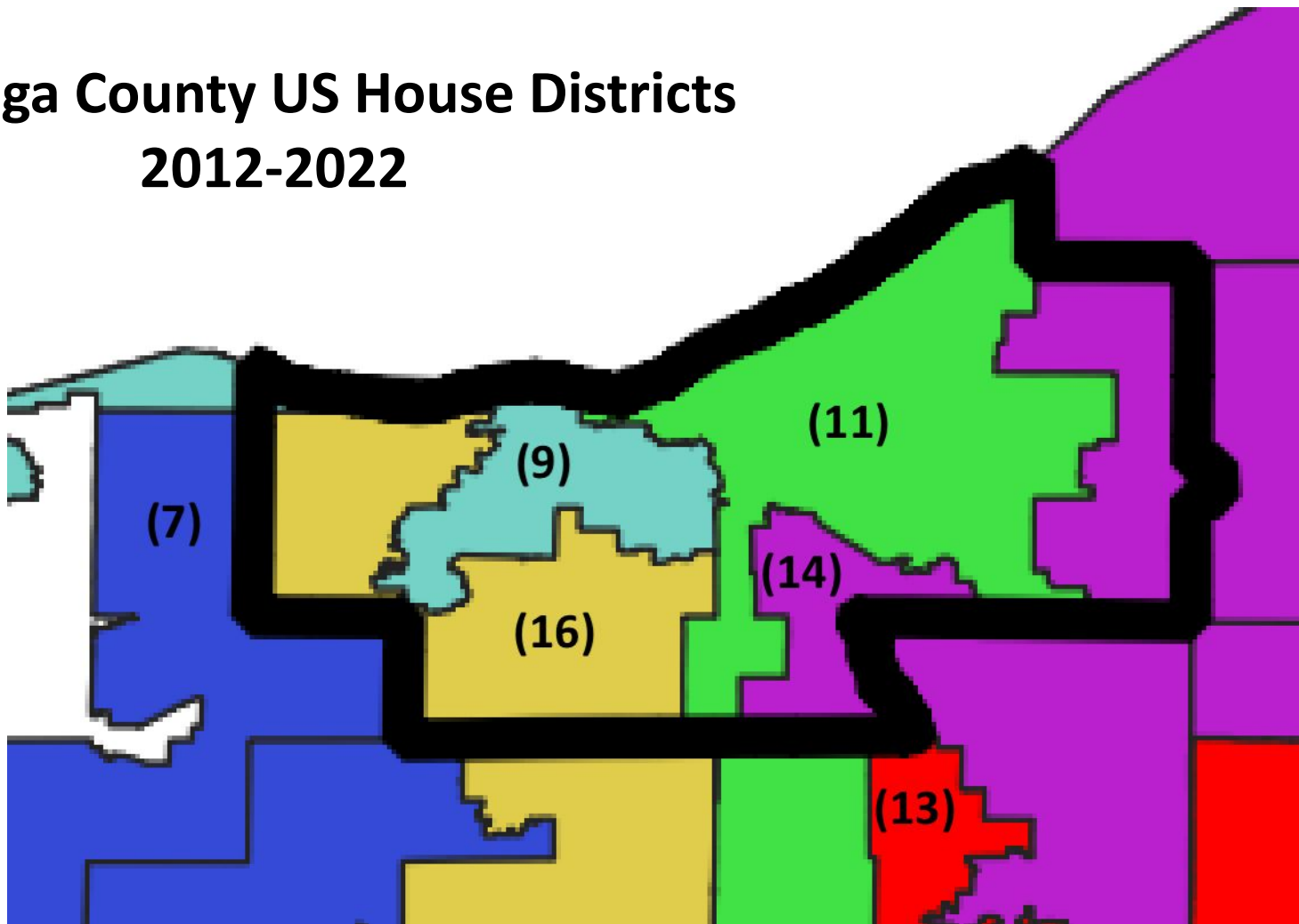
# New Rules for Congressional Maps

- The new rules rein in the worst excesses of gerrymandering through
  - requirements for bipartisan mapmaking (in first three stages),
  - greater transparency,
  - giving Ohioans tools so that they can make their own maps and participate more fully in mapmaking. (The Ohio Constitution now requires public hearings following the introduction of maps proposed by the official mapmakers and allows for the public submissions of districts & legislative maps.)
- Congressional redistricting emphasizes **counties** as political building blocks.
- Of Ohio's 88 counties:
  - at least **65** counties shall be contained entirely within a district,
  - up to **18** counties may be split not more than once,
  - up to **5** counties may be split not more than twice.
- Stage 4 four year map would have to adhere to stricter requirements protecting against drawing district lines to favor or disfavor political parties, candidates and incumbents.

These districts will change!



# Cuyahoga County US House Districts 2012-2022





# Upcoming Redistricting Events

**Tuesday, 1/19:** [Redistricting 101](#), 7pm. Join Fair Districts to learn the basics about redistricting, why and how Ohio will draw new state and federal legislative maps in 2021. This is also a great start for those who want to get trained to join the Fair Districts Speakers Bureau. [Register at this link](#).

**Monday, 1/25:** [Mapmaking in 2021. Community Mapping and Mapmaking with DistrictR](#). Join Fair Districts for an opportunity to talk about community mapping and also a tutorial on [DistrictR](#), public software developed by MGGG Redistricting Lab, a research group at Tufts University. Suzanne Almeida of Common Cause will lead a discussion about the benefits of community mapping and then provide a demonstration of the software. Registration link [HERE](#).