

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



77 S. HIGH STREET, 14TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
REP04@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

April 28, 2022

Senator Vernon Sykes
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Sykes:

I write in reply to your letter dated April 27, 2022. Thank you for agreeing to hold an Ohio Redistricting Commission meeting on May 4. Our staffs are collectively preparing a meeting notice for that date. We will continue to work on an agenda for that meeting as it will draw near soon.

To recap our earlier conversation, it is both unwise and not feasible for the Redistricting Commission to meet prior to that date. As you are quite aware, the primary election for statewide and congressional offices, as well as numerous local races and ballot issues across Ohio will be held on May 3, less than a week from now. Secretary LaRose has the statutory responsibility to ensure that the election runs properly across the state – a huge responsibility. Further, the redistricting process has caused enough confusion among Ohio voters. We already have a split primary. Early voting is at a record low. Holding more meetings prior to May 3 would serve no other purpose than to further confuse the electorate. I am not willing to sacrifice the smooth operation of the primary election for the sole purpose of conducting business that can just as easily be conducted at the Redistricting Commission meeting already scheduled for May 4.

You also mischaracterize Auditor Faber's April 26, 2022 letter. That letter clearly did not call a meeting of the Redistricting Commission pursuant to Rule 5. Instead, the letter encouraged the Commission to meet "as soon as possible." As explained above, we are meeting as reasonably and feasibly soon as possible and thus meeting the Auditor's request.

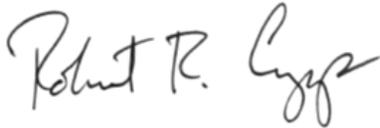
I must express my concern with your request for even more money to re-engage your outside map making consultant, Chris Glassburn. The decision on that request, of course, rests not with me as only the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment, and Demographic Research ("Task Force") can allocate those funds. That Task Force is co-chaired by Senator Rob McColley and Representative Allison Russo. Your request for additional money should be directed to them. Since you raised the issue, however, I do harbor some concern with your request for additional funding for Mr. Glassburn. It is my understanding that on April 16, 2022, Rep. Russo requested an additional \$200,000 allocation to the Democratic caucus for the stated purpose of re-engaging Mr. Glassburn. It is important to note that this request is in addition to **three other allocations** to the Democratic caucus.

- On April 23, 2021, \$150,000 was allocated to the Democrat caucus¹.
- On August 11, 2021, less than four months later, another \$250,000 was allocated to the Democrat caucus because the original allocation had already been consumed.
- On January 16, 2022, five months later, you expressed a need for an additional \$150,000 for your map making consultant.² This request too was granted.

Now, after paying \$500,000 to Mr. Glassburn, you claim a need to pay him an additional \$200,000? To put this into context, the two independent map makers, Dr. Douglas Johnson and Dr. Mark McDonald, combined were paid roughly \$100,000. I would encourage both co-chairs of the Task Force to request an accounting from Mr. Glassburn for past expenditures and an itemized statement of any billings going forward

I look forward to a productive meeting of the Redistricting Commission on May 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Cupp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" at the end.

Robert R. Cupp
Speaker of the House
Ohio House of Representatives

¹ The two Democrat members of the Redistricting Commission.

² The Republican Caucus, all five Republican members of the Redistricting Commission, has received a total allocation of \$200,000.