

June 1, 2022

Honorable Frank LaRose
Secretary of State
22 N. 4th Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Secretary LaRose,

As Precinct Election Officials from across Ohio, we object to your use of unconstitutional legislative districts in the [Primary Election you scheduled for August 2, 2022](#). Many of us warned you in [our previous letter](#), sent on April 11, 2022, that your refusal to use constitutional districts would prevent Ohio's elections from being fully free and fair. Unfortunately, you and your colleagues on the Ohio Redistricting Commission have "engaged in a stunning rebuke of the rule of law," [per the Ohio Supreme Court's bipartisan majority](#), by rigging elections with gerrymandering in violation of the Ohio Constitution. We cannot support such flawed and illegitimate elections.

You have repeatedly [praised our service as patriotic poll workers](#) on the "front lines of our democracy." During elections, we put aside our personal politics in order to work together as bipartisan teams to assist voters so that elections can be fair, accurate and secure. But we cannot defend democracy when you, in your capacity as Ohio's Chief Elections Officer and as a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, abuse your position and state resources to unduly favor your political party and its incumbents. Your dereliction of duty and refusal to do your job as Secretary of State has made our jobs as Precinct Election Officials impossible. We cannot uphold the integrity of elections in polling places when the outcomes of those elections have already been predetermined by politicians who manipulated districts to prevent fair competition.

You and your party's excuses for breaking the law are disingenuous and insulting to the more than 70% of Ohio voters who amended our Constitution to ban partisan gerrymandering. Even before you passed the first set of unconstitutional maps, you [admitted that your party's rationale was "asinine" and that you "should vote no."](#) and yet you voted for them anyway. Since then, you have [inaccurately asserted](#), including when seeking [intervention from your party's federal judges](#), that statutory primary election timelines are more important than our Constitution, when in fact, statutes are subordinate to constitutional rights and requirements and could easily be corrected by your partisans in the Ohio General Assembly. Your claims were also debunked by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, who tried to help you and your colleagues get out of the ["constitutional crisis" you caused by explaining in a letter dated February 22, 2022, how the General Assembly could delay or replace the primary](#): "Some sort of ranked-choice voting could be enacted, or a post-November runoff process."

As Attorney General Yost demonstrated, there is still time for you and the General Assembly to agree on a way to run legislative elections "which is most directly reflective of the will of the

people” and in compliance with the Ohio Constitution. To proceed with unconstitutional districts is tantamount to election theft through gerrymandering.

As Precinct Election Officials, we cannot in good faith participate in a primary election on August 2 if it proceeds with unconstitutionally gerrymandered districts, and we advise our fellow poll workers to not be made complicit in illegitimate elections. We cannot protect voters when the design of the election itself interferes with their civil rights to participate in truly free and fair elections, and when the outcomes of such flawed elections should be invalidated.

Please stop using your public platform and state resources to spread electoral chaos and disinformation, including by [mischaracterizing us and the vast majority of Ohioans who voted for fair districts as “deep-pocketed, out-of-state special interests.”](#) We are patriotic Ohioans who take [our job to “defend democracy” \(as you say\)](#) seriously, and we ask you to do the same.

Please do your job to work with the General Assembly and bipartisan Election Officials to delay or replace the August 2 primary and with the Ohio Redistricting Commission to pass constitutional districts.

Thank you,
Your Precinct Election Officials

Felecia Avery, Warren County
Mark Bateman, Yellow Springs, Greene County
Amy R Boso, Mason, Warren County
M. Kristin Diekmeyer, Miami Township, Clermont County
Phyl Divine, Stow, Summit County
Mary Drzycimski-Finn, Ada, Hardin County
Erik Dullaert, Miami Township, Clermont County
Christine Engel, Cincinnati, Hamilton County
James Doug French, Mt. Vernon, Knox County
Greg Fritz, Hamilton County
Erin Renee Gill, Columbus, Franklin County
June Hayes, Archbold, Fulton County
Theresa Hayes, Montville Township, Medina County
Christopher Henize, Columbus, Franklin County
Jennifer Herko, Warren, Trumbull County
Kyle Herman, Stow, Summit County
Linda Kernohan, Columbus, Franklin County
Linda G. Kessler, Powell, Delaware County
Edgar M. Kessler, Powell, Delaware County
William Kirby, Madison Township, Scioto County
Bonnie M. Koenig, Eastlake, Lake County
Danielle Morris, Columbus, Franklin County
Tom Mosier, Mercer County

Lorri Null, Newark, Licking County
Jodi Ransom, Columbus, Franklin County
Lisa Redman, Columbus, Franklin County
Christine Renaud, Willoughby, Lake County
Jean-Pierre Renaud, Willoughby, Lake County
Sharon Robertson, Dayton, Montgomery County
Charles Rogers, Mt Vernon, Knox County
Mary Rose, Franklin County
Sarah Sanchez, Twinsburg, Summit County
Bethany Sanders, Franklin County
Amanda Schuster, Butler County
Ann Shanley, Wickliffe, Lake County
Amanda Shufelberger, Mt Vernon, Knox County
Janice Silver, New Albany, Franklin County
Christine Soska, New Albany, Franklin County
Barbara Springer, Kent, Portage County
David Stefano, Columbus, Franklin County
Stephanie Surina, Bucyrus, Crawford County
Dr. Jo Thompson, Marion County
Kyle Wagenaar, Columbus, Franklin County

Additional signatories from our [previous letter](#) opposed to gerrymandering:

Michael Ahern, Blacklick, Franklin County
Mary Theresa Casey, Fauver, Franklin County
Paula Durbin, Crawford County
Ann Faulhaber, Avon, Lorain County
Mary Fricke, South Lebanon, Warren County
Dana Fritzsche, Harlem Township, Delaware County
Rachel Hazelwood, Russell Township, Geauga County
Sandra McAlphine, Lebanon, Warren County
Birgit Nazarian, Granville, Licking County
Melanie Olsen-Simon, Loveland, Hamilton County
Tom Volpe, Carlisle, Warren County
Kristin Welker, Beavercreek, Greene County
Evan Western, Columbus, Franklin County
Andrea R. Yagoda, Concord Township, Delaware County
Rebecca Youngmeyer, Mason, Warren County

CC: Governor Mike DeWine, Attorney General Dave Yost, Auditor Keith Faber, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp, Ohio Senate Minority Leader Vernon Sykes, Ohio House Minority Leader Allison Russo, State Senate Majority Whip Rob McColley, State Rep. Jeff LaRe, other members of the Ohio General Assembly... other members of Boards of Elections...