



OCRC Unity Maps: Media 101

- These unity maps are **fair, realistic maps that reflect how Ohioans vote** - not maps that have been gerrymandered to privilege a certain political majority. They meet all of the requirements of the Ohio Constitution as amended in 2015 by an overwhelming majority of Ohio voters.
- Fair, representative maps must reflect how Ohioans actually vote. Over the last decade, Ohio Republicans have only captured about 54% of the statewide vote. Ohio Republicans currently hold supermajorities at the Statehouse, but **they are not winning supermajorities of the statewide vote**. That's not fair or reasonable.
- At the state legislative level, maps must include **at least 44 Democratic House seats** (out of 99 seats) and **15 Democratic Senate seats (out of 33 seats)**. Our unity maps meet this very important “representational fairness” requirement in the Ohio Constitution.
- Ohioans want a **transparent process we can trust**, where communities remain whole and where voters’ representational power has been diluted by “packing and cracking,” especially Black voters.
 - Our commission’s proposed map recommends **12 Minority Opportunity Districts for the Ohio House** and **4 Minority Opportunity Districts for the Senate**, meaning they have a Black Voting Age Population of at least 30%. Each map has two additional seats within 2% of the minority opportunity threshold. This ensures our map meets the requirement of the Voting Rights Act that minority voters can elect representatives of their choosing.
 - **Our maps keep communities together**, following all of the rules laid out in the Ohio Constitution preventing the unnecessary splitting of counties, municipalities and townships.
- **Our maps use the 2020 Census data** to meet the constitutional requirement that each district have equal population within a 5% margin.



How We Gathered Community Input

- These maps are based on a composite of over 2000 maps and written testimony submitted by regular citizens across our state. We worked with a pioneering national mapmaking organization called [More Equitable Democracy](#), which promotes racial justice in the electoral process to consider this community input and ensure that all requirements of the Ohio' Constitution were met.
- The Ohio Citizen Redistricting Commission has held seven public hearings throughout key strategic regions in the state, starting in May through August. You can watch recordings of all our previous hearings on our website at <https://ohredistrict.org/past-hearings>. All of our hearings were held after working hours and virtually to protect everyone's safety during the pandemic to ensure that we made them as accessible as we could.
- Our commission is nonpartisan. Commissioners were selected through a formal process of applications and nominations. We strove to select a diversity of people across fields, professions, and backgrounds to ensure we had a cross-section of Ohioans represented on the commission.
- The Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission will submit these unity maps as official testimony to the Ohio Redistricting Commission. The maps are now available [here](#).