

# *Let's put the voters first!*

## *Why don't our politicians listen to us?*

Our politicians are going into backrooms to draw districts which benefit themselves -- to ensure their own re-elections without being accountable to the voters. In order to gain political advantage, they have created bizarre districts that zig zag across Ohio and split apart numerous cities and counties. And then within three months of adopting new congressional districts, the politicians exchanged new maps in secret, changed the districts again, and even changed the date of the election!

Instead of voters choosing their politicians, politicians are picking their voters.

## *What is the solution?*

A coalition, supported by over 25 nonpartisan organizations in Ohio, led by the League of Women Voters, Ohio Citizen Action, and Common Cause allowed private citizens to create districts using nonpartisan redistricting principles. These nonpartisan principles have been incorporated into a proposed constitutional amendment which would reform Ohio's redistricting process. With enough support this issue can be on this November's ballot, so that Ohio's voters can decide.

## *What would the new process look like?*

- **Politicians will no longer be able to draw their districts.** Instead an Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission, consisting of 12 qualified people, will determine our districts. Politicians, lobbyists, large campaign contributors, and other political insiders will not be permitted on the commission or to choose who is.
- **The Commission will be nonpartisan** with four Republicans, four Democrats, and four voters not affiliated with either party. New districts will require the approval of 8 of the 12 commission members. Districts can not be created to favor or disfavor a political party, incumbent, or potential candidate.
- **No more backroom deals!** All commission meetings and records, including proposed plans must be public. The commission must consider plans submitted by the public and must provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on proposed plans.
- **Requires fair and objective redistricting practices.** The commission will be required to adopt the plan which complies with all legal requirements, including the Voting Rights Act, and which best meets the following nonpartisan criteria:
  - Creates compact districts.
  - Minimizes splits of counties, municipalities, townships, and wards.
  - Maximizes the number of politically balanced districts.
  - Balances the number of districts which favor each political party to reflect the preferences of Ohio voters.

## *What can I do?*

To move forward, we need to identify sufficient resources to gather 385,000 signatures by July 3, 2012 and mobilize a statewide educational campaign for the Nov. 2012 election. You can help by:

- Encouraging your group or organization to endorse this plan.
- Committing your time, money, and influence to supporting the effort to put this on the ballot.
- Communicating your support to [jslagle@drawthelinemidwest.org](mailto:jslagle@drawthelinemidwest.org).
- Following our efforts at [www.drawthelineohio.org](http://www.drawthelineohio.org) and on our Facebook page.