



# **End Gerrymandering End Hunger**



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## **What is Gerrymandering?**

Gerrymandering is when lawmakers create legislative maps (Statehouse, Congress) to guarantee the outcome of the election to benefit their political party and political allies. They do this by dividing communities up and drawing districts that divide communities and minimize opposition.

## **How does this impact hunger in our communities?**

When general elections matter, then the opinions of democrats, republicans, 3rd party voters, and unaffiliated voters matter. If an elected official wants to be re-elected, they will have to engage with people of all political stripes in their community and identify ways to solve community issues. Ohio's current system requires elected officials to chase quotes on partisan cable news opinion shows instead of meeting with the local church's food pantry or a neighborhood PTA in addressing the concerns of the community.

## **Why should people of faith prioritize this issue?**

Many faith traditions prioritize the command to *love one another*. One of the top ways of loving our neighbor is to listen to them, and our elections are one of the most important ways that we can listen and respect our neighbors needs, priorities, and views. Under our gerrymandered system, the voices of many - especially those in marginalized and under-represented communities - go unheard. When we fix gerrymandering, our voices and our neighbors voices will be heard.

## **I thought we fix this a few years ago?**

In both 2015 (71%) and 2018 (75%), Ohioans voted overwhelmingly to create a more public process and guidelines to reduce gerrymandering. However, the new rules were written by the General Assembly, and they ignored many of them. The State Supreme Court ruled multiple times that the maps were unconstitutional and the General Assembly ignored the courts and the intent of Ohioans.

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## **Can we fix Gerrymandering?**

YES! Right now citizens and community groups are gathering signatures to ask Ohio voters in November to create a fair and equitable process. This ballot initiative will:

- Create a 15 member non-partisan commission to draw maps fairly. The Commission is made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens who broadly represent the different geographic and demographics of Ohio.
- Ban politicians, political party officials and lobbyists from serving.
- Require fair and impartial districts by making it unconstitutional to draw voting districts that favor any political party or candidate.
- Require the commission to operate under an open process.

## **How does this get before Ohio voters?**

Before July 2024, the campaign *Citizens Not Politicians* [citizensnotpoliticians.org](http://citizensnotpoliticians.org) must submit 413,487 **valid** signatures from at least 44 counties in Ohio. At that time, the issue will be assigned a ballot number (Issue 1, Issue 2, etc.) During the November election, all Ohio voters will have the opportunity to VOTE YES for meaningful redistricting reform.

## **Can my church, food pantry, or non-profit get involved?**

Yes! Non-profit organizations such as churches and food pantries are allowed to take positions on ballot initiatives, but cannot take positions on partisan races. This is a non-partisan issue campaign.

Non-profits in Ohio are allowed to conduct voter registration and circulate petitions. They are also allowed to coordinate community education events, and encourage people to vote YES for redistricting reform.

## **How can we get involved?**

As an individual or a non-profit organization, you can find resources, information, and opportunities on our website -

[www.hungernetohio.com/redistricting](http://www.hungernetohio.com/redistricting).



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